

MILITARY

Camp Lejeune residents raise concerns about mold, leaks exacerbated by Florence

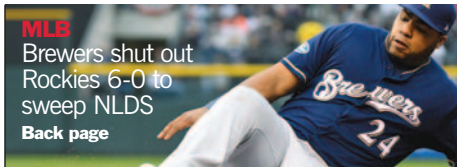
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Army officer files suit after getting shot by contractor

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The four men on duty had agreed to watch the movie "Anchorman" as they settled into a security shift on Afghanistan's Bagram Air Field one December afternoon nearly two years ago.

Zachary Woods, an Army lieutenant deployed with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment at the time, was carrying on a friendly debate about handgun skills with Marine veteran Dylan Barrett, a security contractor and former police officer, witnesses said.

What happened next isn't entirely clear. But the conversation ended with a bang and Woods dropped to the floor with a gunshot wound in his torso.

Woods filed a lawsuit this past summer in Illinois' Cook County Circuit Court, claiming that "horseplay with a loaded firearm" caused him serious, permanent injuries and pain. The suit alleges that Barrett and his employer, Triple Canopy, were negligent. Woods is seeking more than \$100,000.

Triple Canopy's lawyers say that the company and Barrett were under the Army's "operational control," which grants them protection under federal laws, including one that shields the military from state civil suits arising out of wartime activities. However, Woods wants to sue at the state level, where courts wouldn't consider Triple Canopy's arguments under federal law.

SEE SUIT ON PAGE 3

Woods filed a lawsuit claiming that "horseplay with a loaded firearm" caused him serious, permanent injuries and pain.



SHARING HISTORY

Sidney Walton, 99, is on a mission to visit all 50 states, giving people a chance to meet one of the few remaining WWII vets

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — When Sidney Walton 99, was just a lad, he had the chance to meet some of the few remaining veterans still alive from the Civil War of the 1860s.

He skipped the opportunity — to his lasting regret.

With that long-ago lesson in mind, the World War II Army veteran is embarked on a 50-state excursion he has dubbed the No Regrets Tour. This time around, it is he who is making himself available to meet with anyone wishing for a last-chance encounter with one of the dwindling number



of World War II veterans still among us.

This week, Walton and his son, Paul, 62, flew from Alaska to Hawaii, the 14th state on the tour. On Friday, Walton met with Hawaii Gov. David Ige, just as he had met with the governors of the previous 13 states.

Later the same day, he visited the World War II-themed Home of the Brave Museum in Honolulu.

SEE WALTON ON PAGE 7

World War II veteran Sidney Walton, in uniform at left and above right with son Paul, visit the Home of the Brave Museum in Honolulu on Oct. 5.

WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes; photo at left courtesy of goidneyng.com

ON OCTOBER 12TH.

MILITARY



COURTESY OF 1ST SQUADRON, 3RD CAVALRY REGIMENT/Facebook

Zachary Woods, right, then a second lieutenant, is shown at Bagram Air Field in this Army photo from September 2016 with 1st Cavalry Division commander Maj. Gen. John "J.T." Thomson, center, and 1st Lt. Jake Carpenter in the days after Thomson took command of the U.S. base about 40 miles north of Kabul, Afghanistan.

Suit: Officials believe shooting was a negligent discharge

FROM FRONT PAGE

In August, Woods' case went to federal court to decide whether he can sue at the state level. Woods' lawyers have argued that Triple Canopy's interpretation of federal law shielding the company and Barrett is too broad and doesn't protect against claims of simple negligence.

Triple Canopy is part of Constellis, formerly Blackwater, which is also named in Woods' lawsuit. A status hearing will be held next month.

An Army investigation obtained by Stars and Stripes provides more details of the incident, minus names. Court documents Woods filed about the same time included an unredacted section identifying him and Barrett.

'Culture of complacency'

The shooting, which officials believe was a negligent discharge, occurred Dec. 19, 2016, on Bagram's Camp Alpha, an area of the base largely reserved for special operations personnel.

Woods, Barrett and two others — an enlisted soldier and a contractor — were on shift inside the camp's Base Defense Operations Center, or BDOC, a hub for monitoring security systems, camera feeds and radio traffic.

Investigators found no evidence of foul play, and Woods and Barrett were said to get along like brothers. But witness accounts suggest the shooting was the result of carelessness following high jinks by those charged with overseeing the base's security.

The shooting came at a grim time on the sprawling U.S. base, as officials faced questions about a suicide bombing weeks earlier, the first to strike the heart of the heavily fortified base. Five Americans were killed and 17 others were wounded in the blast near a Veterans Day gathering.

An Army inquiry into the attack found officials had struggled for months against a "pervasive 'culture of complacency' and indiscipline ... that permeated the forward operating base," which at the time was home to more than 15,000 troops, contractors and civilians.

Woods' initial lawsuit seized upon that complacency, citing Barrett's actions as part of larger security lapses at the base.

"After an inordinate delay in the furnishing of weapons necessary for the provision of static security ... in protection of the air

base, U.S. military personnel and others at Bagram Air Field, the Defendant Triple Canopy and/or the Constellis Defendants failed to provide the necessary and proper training, instruction and/or guidance concerning firearm use and safety ... specifically, including the Defendant Barrett."

Woods had arrived there in August 2016 as a platoon leader in Bandit Troop, 1st Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment. A West Point graduate and son of a retired Air Force fighter pilot, he'd joined the unit earlier that year after completing Ranger School.

Barrett began working the afternoon security shift sometime after training in October 2016 at a Triple Canopy facility in Moyock, N.C., said the second contractor, also an employee of Triple Canopy.

Earlier in the day, Woods and Barrett had been debating the "21-foot rule," a theory about the range from which a knife-wielding assailant can fatally attack someone before the victim can draw and fire a holstered sidearm.

Woods demonstrated rapidly closing such a distance in the office, which measured about 23 feet, advancing on Barrett. Barrett stepped aside without drawing on him.

Debates, boasts

Debates and boasts about shooting were common, Barrett said, but they were not testing the theory when Woods was shot.

Rather, Barrett had bragged that he could shoot better because of the superiority of his Glock 17 — his off-duty weapon while a stateside police officer — compared with Woods' Beretta M9, he said.

The lieutenant asked him to hand the Glock over.

Though it held a loaded 17-round magazine, Barrett's gun should have had an empty chamber. It's common safety practice to clear a firearm before handing it off.

For the semiautomatic Glock, that would mean dropping the magazine out, locking back the slide and inspecting the chamber and magazine to ensure no round is present.

Barrett recounted performing these steps in a different order, starting by drawing back the slide. This could have chambered a round, making the handgun ready to fire with a pull of the trigger, which is

where a Glock's safety lever is located. The M9's safety is near its hammer.

Next, while removing the magazine, Barrett said, he fumbled the weapon. He and Woods reached out to catch it. Barrett recalled grabbing the magazine in one hand, pistol in the other. He didn't recall hearing the shot.

"Woods fell into him in almost a hug and (slid) down to the floor," the investigators wrote, based on Barrett's sworn statement. "He then noticed blood and asked if [Woods] was hit."

'Piercing gunshot'

The next moments were a blur as the other men in the room leapt up to help. More people arrived. Someone ran for a medic.

Barrett opened the soldier's shirt and held a plastic sheet protector over his chest wound, he said. Woods was rushed to a clinic, then to the base hospital. He underwent surgery and was medically evacuated before dawn for further treatment in Germany.

The two others on shift — the enlisted soldier and the second contractor — weren't sure later what their colleagues had been discussing right before the shooting. They'd been facing away, doing paperwork and watching TVs and security camera feeds until hearing what the soldier called a "piercing gunshot."

After Woods was carried away, the second contractor gathered the firearm, casing and spent round for evidence. The magazine was in the Glock, he said. Another witness recalled him clearing it and ejecting a second round from the chamber, which suggests the magazine was in the gun when it was fired.

Clearly upset, Barrett asked to speak to Woods and blamed himself for the mishap when speaking to investigators that evening. Officials later barred him from all coalition bases in Afghanistan.

Questioned at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, days afterward, Woods had no memory of the shooting but said it had probably been an accident and that Barrett "was a good guy and means well."

Fifteen months later, he filed suit.

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Above: An Army Criminal Investigation Command report shows a sketch of the Bagram Air Field base defense operations center drawn by an unidentified sergeant first class in the hours after security contractor Dylan Barrett apparently shot Zachary Woods. Black boxes cover the names indicating where the soldier recalled others were standing at the time of the incident.

Below: A scanned photo taken by a security official after the shooting shows a Glock 17, magazine and saved round on a desk inside the center.

SCREENSHOTS BY CHAD GARLAND/
Stars and Stripes



MILITARY

Camp Lejeune housing decried as dangerous

By Emily Wax-Thirdeaux
The Washington Post

Families living on one of the Marine Corps' largest bases are ramping up criticism of the private company that manages their homes, saying it is ignoring long-standing problems with mold and structural defects that were exacerbated after Hurricane Florence slammed North Carolina last month.

Even before the hurricane unleashed devastation across the Carolinas, several spouses were working to draw attention to what they called a lackadaisical attitude by Atlantic Marine Corps Communities about the conditions inside Camp Lejeune's private housing — from leaky and crumbling ceilings to 70-foot-tall rotting trees in danger of collapsing.

Many of those trees did fall, they said, as the storm struck parts of North Carolina with fast-moving floods and powerful winds. Camp Lejeune is on the coast, close to where the hurricane rushed ashore.

The storm exacerbated other housing problems, said Tori Sproat, who has lived on the base with her husband — a Marine major — and two young children since 2013. She said her bedroom's rain-soaked, bubbling ceiling was made far worse by Hurricane Florence.

Sproat and other spouses have taken to Facebook in frustration to draw attention to moldy walls and the trees they say have been infested with carpenter ants for years, posting letters, photos and videos they have sent to the company.

"It's been a long time coming. We deserve better, and we know the Marine Corps wants us to have better, too," Sproat said.

A 'top' priority

In an emailed statement sent to The Washington Post, AMCC wrote: "Based on initial assessments, more than 1,238 of the homes at Camp Lejeune have some level of interior damage to include water intrusion. There were an additional 139 severely damaged homes from fallen trees and debris."

The statement added that "AMCC North Carolina residents who wish to relocate from their home are able to do so without penalty for the duration of storm recovery operations. AMCC has partnered and coordinated recovery efforts with certified contractors, in addition to our maintenance team, to assess homes for damages."

"One of our top priorities is currently assessing the damage that has occurred as a result of Hurricane Florence," the company says on its website. "Damages will be prioritized for safety, with the most severe and pressing cases being addressed first."

In a statement provided between Marine Corps public affairs specialist Victoria Long, the company said, "Residents have multiple options to raise concerns to AMCC management and military

leadership if they have persistent issues that are not addressed."

The housing concerns are not limited to the company's management or Camp Lejeune. A Navy spouse in Gulfport, Miss., is helping organize an effort to document housing problems in at least six states on eight bases with serious mold problems "that are not being handled properly," she said, including in Texas, Oklahoma and North Dakota.

She and half a dozen other military spouses who spoke to the Post about the housing concerns asked not to be named because they fear retaliation by the military.

Military bases began privatizing housing management in 1996 in an effort to improve hazardous, dilapidated conditions. The Defense Department owned approximately 257,000 family housing units worldwide at the time, both on and off base. Because of budgetary constraints, more than 50 percent of them needed to be renovated or replaced because they were outdated or insufficiently maintained, according to the department.

The spouses say the problems persisted since private companies took control and, in some cases, they have gotten worse.

'Worries over health'

Reuters news agency has been examining safety and environmental hazards faced by U.S. military families living on bases, including cases of childhood lead poisoning that lead to cancer and other serious health problems.

"At Lejeune, some families described encountering troubles that reporters observed at other bases: lags in maintenance responses by private contractors that stir worries over health," the news service reported.

Sproat said there are fallen trees throughout Camp Lejeune, some crushing homes, and some families have lost all their belongings.

In a telephone interview, a woman living at Camp Lejeune said the ceiling in her infant daughter's room collapsed in March 2016, and there was a gushing leak in the living room. At 8 months old, her daughter was on albuterol, a prescription drug for the treatment of asthma, and had to use a nebulizer to help deliver medication for her respiratory issues.

"She had a tiny oxygen mask. It was just sad," she said. The woman asked to remain anonymous because she didn't want to negatively affect her husband's career. "I have been a thorn in AMCC's side since," she said. "We went to the media because we want them to be held accountable."

She said it isn't the pace of Hurricane Florence repairs that she's concerned about. "It's the long-standing problems they never address — maybe to cut corners or save money," she said.

"It's been a long time coming. We deserve better, and we know the Marine Corps wants us to have better, too."

Tori Sproat
wife of Marine major living on base



LIAM A. SMITH/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Marines participate in Fleet Week 5K

U.S. Marines with 2nd Marine Division participate in the Fleet Week Baltimore 5K run at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore on Sunday. Fleet Week Baltimore allows local residents to witness firsthand the maritime capabilities of the Navy and Marine Corps and also promotes communal growth through community relations projects.

Defense contractors working on self-driving subs to clear mines

By Aaron Gregg
The Washington Post

Over the past two decades, unmanned aerial drones have transformed how the Air Force wages war, allowing it to surveil hostile territory and neutralize enemy targets without putting the lives of pilots at risk.

Next, the Navy is hoping it can employ its own unmanned vehicles to clear mines, scout unfamiliar territory or wage anti-submarine warfare. And big-name defense contractors are eagerly buying the rights to next-generation technologies that they think could enable a revolution in sea-based autonomy.

For years, Boeing Co. and Lockheed Martin Corp. have invested in unmanned, autonomous drones of their own. And the New York-based defense contractor L3 Technologies is building out an entire business unit focused on sea-based autonomy, preparing for a future in which the Navy buys fewer aircraft carriers and more robots.

"I would predict there will come a time when every manned vessel has an autonomous capability built into it, might even be required by regulation," said Bill Toti, a retired Navy submarine captain and now an executive at L3.

Over the past 18 months, L3 has embarked on a slew of acquisitions focused on autonomous boats, submarines and their enabling technologies.

Late last year, the company announced that it is teaming up with the defense giant Boeing to handle autonomous technologies, navigation and cybersecurity for the Navy's "extra-large unmanned undersea vehicle" competition. In April of last year, L3 bought a smaller firm called OceanServer Technology, a 15-year-old startup that makes unmanned underwater vehicles.

Last summer, it bought a company called Open Water Power, which focuses on specialized batteries that allow the subs to power themselves for longer periods of time. In September 2017, it bought Adaptive Methods, a Centerville, Va.-based company that develops the advanced sensor and payload systems that go on unmanned underwater vehicles.

And last month, the company bought ASV Global, a market leader in "Autonomous Surface Vehicles," self-driving boats that are sold to commercial and military customers.

Overseeing it all is Sean Stackley, a former Navy official who joined the company

in January. In the Navy, Stackley served as assistant secretary for research, development and acquisition, playing a lead role in setting the service's technology acquisition priorities.

His hiring is part of a broader reorganization at L3, a publicly traded company whose most visible product has been 360-degree scanners that commercial flyers pass through at the airport.

He said the technology enabling such systems has only recently become available. For now, the approach is based mainly around teaming

'I would predict there will come a time when every manned vessel has an autonomous capability built into it.'

Bill Toti
retired Navy submarine captain and executive at L3 Technologies

When you use manned mine countermeasure ships, it is an extremely laborious process and it means you've got a manned ship in a minefield," Stackley said. "About 10 to 20 years ago, a decision was made to think about using unmanned vehicles to sense and neutralize mines in a minefield. But while that was the right path to go down at that time, frankly, the technology was not mature enough at the time."

He is following a broader school of thought for the U.S. military, in which military services develop autonomous technologies that can be deployed alongside manned vessels. The Air Force is working on robotic drones that could fly alongside fighter jets or scout ahead and absorb enemy fire. The Army has deployed small robots meant to defuse roadside bombs so soldiers don't have to.

L3's acquisition of ASV is an early step for the company in building production lines for unmanned systems. The company says it has more than 100 unmanned surface vehicles deployed around the world with various military and commercial buyers.

"We're integrating together various capabilities with an eye for not only where [the Defense Department] is going," Stackley said, "but also where the world is going."

WAR/MILITARY

Taliban rip Afghan elections, vow to interfere

By SAYED SALAHUDDIN

Special to The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban militants on Monday broke their months of silence on the upcoming parliamentary elections in Afghanistan, warning they would seek to disrupt the Oct. 20 vote.

The announcement casts new doubt on the troubled elections, which already have been delayed for three years and are plagued by fears of fraud and security concerns.

The warning coincides with an increase in the number of attacks by both the Taliban and affiliates of Islamic State in recent months that have killed hundreds of people, including six nominees for the parliamentary vote and scores working on the elections.

It also comes in the midst of a widening political rift between members of the government, dissatisfaction among factional leaders over the electoral process, and al-

legations that President Ashraf Ghani is seeking to manipulate the results to boost his own re-election in six months.

The palace vehemently denies the charge.

In its statement, the Taliban described the elections as a "bogus" U.S. move to consolidate its invasion of Afghanistan and urged Afghans to avoid participation.

"The Islamic Emirate (Taliban), while representing the people and as an emancipative force of the nation, considers this process a fake one as a conspiracy of deceiving the people for achieving the malicious interests of foreigners," read the statement, which comes as the group controls the most territory in the country since its 2001 overthrow.

"The Islamic Emirate instructs all its Mujahideen to halt this American-led process throughout the country by creating severe obstacles for it, while taking extensive and intensive care of civilian Afghan

lives and their properties," it added.

The Taliban warning further raises the alarm about election security. More than 2,000 polling sites already have been shut because of violence. Advised and backed by U.S.-led troops, tens of thousands of Afghan forces are set to be deployed on election day.

In past elections, the Taliban immediately issued warnings that it would disrupt the contests and targeted voters and candidates. This year, however, the militants remained silent until less than two weeks before the vote.

The Taliban warning comes after apparent direct talks between the militants and U.S. delegates failed to produce any result in recent months.

An Interior Ministry official said security preparations are on the right track for the vote and will prevent the Taliban from disrupting the process.

In its statement, the Taliban also sought

to capitalize on the recent visit of Erik Prince, the former Navy SEAL and founder of the Blackwater security company, which was accused of killing civilians in Iraq.

Prince, a heavy donor to President Donald Trump's campaign and brother of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, infuriated Afghan officials when he called during his visit for privatization of the war, using more U.S. contractors.

"The sovereignty of our land is at stake as the privatization of the ongoing war by handing it over to a contract killer group, called Blackwater, is under consideration," the Taliban said. Prince later sold the company, which also changed its name, and founded a new firm.

U.S. and Afghan officials have both said they think Prince's proposal is a bad idea, but it has not been dismissed out of hand in part because of Prince's relationship with people in the Trump administration.

Scientists: DARPA program could be seen as bioweapon

By JOEL ACHENBACH

The Washington Post

The Pentagon is studying whether insects can be enlisted to combat crop loss during agricultural emergencies. The bugs would carry genetically engineered viruses that could be deployed rapidly if critical crops such as corn or wheat became vulnerable to a drought, a natural blight or a sudden attack by a biological weapon.

The concept envisions genetic modifications made by the viruses that protect the plants immediately, during a single growing season.

The program, funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, has a warm-and-fuzzy name: "Insect Allies." But some critics find the whole thing creepy.

A team of skeptical scientists and legal scholars published an article in the journal Science on Thursday arguing that the Insect Allies program opens a "Pandora's box" and involves technology that "may be widely perceived as an effort to develop biological agents for hostile purposes and their means of delivery." A website created by the critics puts their objection more bluntly: "The DARPA program is easily weaponized."

DARPA's program manager for Insect Allies, Blake Bextine, pushed back against the Science article, saying the program is for peaceful purposes, has been reviewed by government agencies responsible for agricultural safety and has multiple layers of safeguards built into the research protocols, including total containment of the insects.

"I don't think that the public needs to be worried," he said. "I don't think that the international community needs to be worried," Bextine told The Washington Post.

He acknowledged that Insect Allies involves new technologies that potentially could be "dual use" — deployed, in theory, for either defensive or offensive purposes. But that's true for almost any advanced technology, he said.

"I think anytime you're developing a new and revolutionary technology, there is that potential for dual-use capability. But that is not what we are doing. We are delivering positive traits to plants. We're focused on that positive goal. We want to make sure we ensure food security, because food security is national security, in our eyes," Bextine said.

The program currently envisions three types of pestiferous insects as allies: aphids, leafhoppers and whiteflies. In nature, those bugs routinely spread viruses among plants. Recent advances in gene editing, including the relatively cheap and simple system known as CRISPR (for clustered regularly interspaced palindromic repeats), potentially could allow researchers to customize viruses to achieve specific goals in infected plants. An engineered virus could switch on or off certain genes that, for example, control a plant's growth rate, which could be useful during an unexpected, severe drought.

Bextine said there are multiple layers of protection to ensure that the technology does not have unintended ecological effects. He also said the program is not targeting the germline cells of plants and thus would not lead to heritable traits. The DARPA goal is to find a way to make a temporary, beneficial modification to plants in a single growing season.

This research might never bear fruit. That's the norm for most DARPA projects. The agency, famous for its key role in laying out the roadmap for the internet half a century ago, typically funds research with a low probability of success but a potentially huge payoff.

Food security is a major issue not likely to vanish anytime in the coming decades as a more crowded planet experiences climate change, pollution, loss of biodiversity and the alarming demand for food and water. Crop warfare is another concern. In ancient times, armies burned fields as a strategic element of conquest. In today's world, the threats could include the distribution of natural pathogens or something engineered in a laboratory.

DARPA's decision for Insect Allies touts the rapid-response feature of the concept.

"National security can be quickly jeopardized by naturally occurring threats to the crop system, including pathogens, drought, flooding, and frost, but especially by DARPA's decision for state or non-state actors," the DARPA website states. "Insect Allies seeks to mitigate the impact of these incursions by applying targeted therapies to mature plants with effects that are expressed at relevant timescales — namely, within a single growing season."

The authors of the Science paper contend that the program potentially could be interpreted as a violation of an international



MEENA HARIBAL, BOYCE THOMPSON INSTITUTE/AP

Corn leaf aphids used in a study to modify crop plants through engineered viruses are seen in 2013.

treaty called the Biological Weapons Convention. They do not go so far as to claim that DARPA has nefarious motives. They have said that if observers see the program as having an offensive military applications, that could undermine adherence to the biological weapons treaty.

"We argue that there is the risk that the program is seen as not justified by peaceful purposes," co-author Silja Voeneky, a professor of international law at the University of Freiburg, told The Washington Post.

She said the use of insects as a key feature of the program is particularly alarming because insects could be deployed cheaply and surreptitiously by malevolent actors.

"In our opinion, the justifications are not clear enough. For example, why do they use insects? They could use spraying systems," Voeneky said. "To use insects as a vector to spread diseases is a classical bioweapon."

The biological weapons treaty does permit research that has a clearly stated peaceful purpose, said Andy Weber, a former Pentagon official overseeing nuclear, chemical and biological defense programs and now a senior fellow at the Council on Strategic Risks. Weber noted that the bio-defense community has been concerned

about the potential use of new gene-editing technologies by hostile actors.

"Over time, terrorist groups and individuals could also exploit these new capabilities, but I don't see that as something that is going to happen this year or next year. But it's certainly something that we want to get ahead of," he said.

James Stack, a plant pathologist at Kansas State University who is serving on the advisory panel of the Insect Allies project, said the alarm sounded by the Science article is unfounded.

"It's nowhere near the application stage. This is to determine if this approach is viable or not. I don't understand the level of concern raised in this paper, and to jump ahead and accuse DARPA of using this as a screen to develop biological weapons is outrageous," Stack said.

"There's risk inherent in life and you just have to manage it well," he said. "And I think as we move into a more crowded planet, it's going to put increasing demands on our food systems, our water systems. We're going to need all the tools in the toolbox that we possibly have."

The program is a genetic modification of organisms through laboratory techniques. Insect Allies might be so effective as an gene-editing technology that it could become a standard procedure for farmers, said Guy Reeves, a co-author of the Science paper and an evolutionary biologist at Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology. He said the genetic modifications — delivered by what he refers to as "horizontal environmental genetic alteration agents" — likely would spread into fields reserved for organic, genetically unmodified crops.

If this program is acceptable, and we decide the technology is something we want to move forward with, why would we use any other technology for anything?" he said. "If this technology works, almost by definition, national governments will not be able to control its spread."

DARPA said last week that the Insect Allies program intends to grant four research institutions: the Boyce Thompson Institute, Penn State, Ohio State and the University of Texas at Austin.

The research is still in its initial phase, Bextine said. The first major achievement is the demonstration that an aphid can infect a mature corn plant with a modified virus containing a gene that causes fluorescence. The corn glowed.

NATION

Roads where crash killed 20 a menace, locals say

By MICHAEL HILL
AND BOB SALSBERG
Associated Press

SCHOHARIE, N.Y. — The site of a devastating accident that killed two pedestrians and 18 occupants of a limousine headed to a birthday party, including four sisters, is a known danger spot that has long worried locals, according to a manager of the store that sits at the intersection where the accident happened.

The intersection had been redone in 2008 because of a fatal accident there, said Jessica Kirby, managing director of the Apple Barrel Country Store and Cafe, which is an institution in Schoharie and among the legions of leaf-peepers who take to the roads of upstate New York each autumn.

Since the reconstruction, three tractor-trailers have run through the same stop sign authorities said the limo blew and into the store behind her business, she said. Officials worked with the state to outlaw heavy trucks, she said, but there are still accidents.

And now this.

"More accidents than I can count," she said in an email. "We have been asking for something to be done for years."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo released a statement Sunday saying he has "directed state agencies to provide every resource necessary to aid in this investigation and determine what led to this tragedy."

Autopsies were being performed, including on the driver to see if drugs or alcohol were a factor. Authorities didn't say whether the limo occupants were wearing seat belts, give the speed of the limo, the state said, that caused the limo to run the stop sign and slam into a parked SUV.



HANS PENNING/AP

A New York state trooper and National Transportation Safety Board members view the scene of a limousine crash in Schoharie, N.Y., on Sunday. All 18 people in the limo and two pedestrians died.

Relatives said the limousine was carrying four sisters and their friends to a 30th birthday celebration for the youngest.

"They did the responsible thing getting a limo so they wouldn't have to drive anywhere," their aunt, Barbara Douglas, said Sunday. She did not want to name them publicly but added: "They were wonderful girls. They'd do anything for you and they were very close to each other and they loved their family."

The 2001 Ford Excursion limousine was traveling southbound on Route 30 in Schoharie, about

170 miles north of New York City when it failed to stop at a T-junction with state Route 30A, state police said. It went across the road and hit an unoccupied SUV parked at the Apple Barrel Country Store and two pedestrians.

The crash appeared to be the deadliest land-vehicle accident in the U.S. since a bus ferrying nursing home patients away from Hurricane Rita caught fire in Texas in 2005, killing 23. It is the deadliest transportation accident overall since February 2009, when a plane crash near Buffalo, N.Y., killed 50 people, said Robert

Sumwalt, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board. The board is investigating the crash, including whether the limo had any mechanical problems.

The Apple Barrel's Facebook page on Sunday reflected the concern around the accident in the tight-knit community.

"Yes, are open today. And could use your hugs," it read. "We are doing our best to cope and grieve. We are a big family at the Apple Barrel, and part of the bigger family of Schoharie. We cope by being together. And that is why we are open."

Storm has Fla. in prep mode

Associated Press

MIAMI — A tropical weather system that rapidly strengthened into Hurricane Michael on Monday is likely to intensify ahead of an expected strike on Florida's Panhandle by midweek, forecasters said.

Michael could strengthen into a major hurricane with winds topping 111 mph by Tuesday night before an expected strike on the Panhandle or Big Bend, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Since the storm will spend two to three days over the Gulf, which has very warm water temperatures and favorable atmospheric conditions, "there is a real possibility that Michael will strengthen to a major hurricane before landfall," Robbie Berg, a hurricane specialist at the Miami-based storm forecasting hub, wrote in an advisory.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott issued an order for a state of emergency for 26 counties to rush preparations, freeing up resources and activating 500 members of the Florida National Guard.

By mid-morning Monday, a large mound of sand in Tallahassee had been already been whittled down to a small pile as residents tried to prepare for potential flooding. A city of Tallahassee worker promised that another mound was ordered and on its way.

"All indications are that it's going to be severe," said City Commissioner Gil Ziffer, adding that if the storm hits Florida's capital, there would be significant tree damage and power outages.

Two years ago, Hurricane Hermine knocked out power for days in Tallahassee and caused widespread flooding as it came up through the Gulf Coast.

Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, who is the Democratic nominee for governor, had planned to campaign in South Florida on Monday and Tuesday, but he said he would return to the city to help with storm preparations.

Farther west along Florida's Panhandle, the city of Pensacola tweeted to residents, "Be sure you have your emergency plan in place."

By 11 a.m. Monday, Michael's top sustained winds were around 75 mph. The storm was centered about 50 miles off the western tip of Cuba, and about 140 miles east-northeast of Cozumel, Mexico. It was moving north around 7 mph.

Global warming report carries life-or-death warning

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Preventing an extra single degree of heat could make a life-or-death difference in the next few decades for multitudes of people and ecosystems on this fast-warming planet, an international panel of scientists reported Sunday. But they provide little hope the world will rise to the challenge.

The Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued its gloomy report in Incheon, South Korea.

In the 728-page document, the U.N. organization detailed how Earth's weather, health and ecosystems would be in better shape if the world's leaders could somehow limit future human-caused warming to just 0.9 degrees Fahrenheit from now, instead of the globally agreed-upon goal of 1.8 degrees F. Among other things:

■ Half as many people would suffer from deadly heat waves.

■ There would be fewer deaths and illnesses from heat, smog and infectious diseases.

■ Seas would rise nearly 4 inches less.

■ Half as many animals with big homes and plants would lose the majority of their habitats.

■ There would be substantially fewer heat waves, downpours and droughts.

■ The West Antarctic ice sheet might not kick into irreversible melting.

■ And it just may be enough to save most of the world's coral reefs from dying.

"For some people this is a life-or-death situation without a doubt," said Cornell University climate scientist Natalie Mahowald, a lead author on the report.

Limiting warming to 0.9 degrees from now means the world can keep "a semblance" of the ecosystems we have. Adding another 0.9 degrees on top of that the looser global goal — essentially means a different and more challenging Earth for people and species, said another of the report's lead authors, Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, director of the Global Change Institute at the University of Queensland, Australia.

But meeting the more ambitious goal of slightly less warming would require immediate, draconian cuts in emissions of heat-trapping gases and dramatic changes in the energy field. While the U.N. panel says technically that's possible, it saw little chance of the needed adjustments



ASH YOUNG-JOON/AP

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Chairman Hoeng Lee speaks to the press in Incheon, South Korea, on Monday.

happening.

In 2010, international negotiators adopted a goal of limiting warming to 2 degrees C (3.6 degrees F) since pre-industrial times. It's called the 2-degree goal. In 2015, when the nations of the world agreed to the historic Paris climate agreement, they set dual goals: 2 degrees C and a more demanding target of 1.5 degrees C from pre-industrial

times. The 1.5 was at the urging of vulnerable countries that called 2 degrees a death sentence.

The world has already warmed 1 degree C since pre-industrial times, so the talk is really about the difference of another half-degree C or 0.9 degrees F from now.

"There is no definitive way to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 above pre-industrial levels," the U.N.-requested report said. More than 90 scientists wrote the report, which is based on more than 6,000 peer reviews.

"Global warming is likely to reach 1.5 degrees C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate," the report states.

Limiting warming to the lower goal is "not impossible but will require unprecedented changes," U.N. panel chief Hoeng Lee said in a news conference in which scientists repeatedly declined to spell out just how feasible that goal is. They said it is up to governments to decide whether those changes are acted upon.

"We have a monumental task in front of us, but it is not impossible," Mahowald said earlier. "This is our chance to decide what the world is going to look like."

NATION

Walton:

Destinations determined by costs of flight

FROM FRONT PAGE

Walton enlisted in the Army in early 1941.

"I wanted to fight Hitler," he said.

He trained with a unit slated to fight in Europe, but he broke his ankle during a drill and didn't go. After mending, he was assigned to India, where he served as a medic for the rest of the war.

The No Regrets Tour thus far has taken the father-son pair to Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Nebraska, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Florida and Alaska.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo met with the veteran for an hour, Paul Walton said.

"He reminded him of his own father, the late Mario Cuomo," the younger Walton said.

When the father and son set out on the No Regrets Tour from their home in San Diego in the spring, they packed for a year, expecting to be on the road for that long.

The tour took a hiatus when Paul underwent cancer surgery, but with a positive prognosis, they set out again.

"We're just going to keep going until we hit all 50 states," Paul said.

They buy one-way tickets for each leg of the trip.

"Really, we can't buy a round-trip ticket because we've already visited that spot," the younger Walton said.

Say 'hello' in Waikiki

The choice of each next destination is dictated by the cheapest flight available.

While in Alaska, they found that Hawaii was the most afford-



WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Sidney Walton, 99, wears a World War II Army helmet at the Home of the Brave Museum in Honolulu on Friday. Walton is on a quest to visit all 50 states in what he is calling the No Regrets tour.

'We can't buy a round-trip ticket because we've already visited that spot.'

Paul Walton
son of Sidney Walton

able next stop.

The Hawaii stop might have been economical, but the visit comes during the hottest, steamiest time of year, and Friday's humidity dehydrated the 99-year-old, who sipped on a vintage-style bottle of Coke at the museum and spoke little.

Walton is scheduled to meet with President Donald Trump when he turns 100 on Feb. 11.

For the next few days, though, Walton and his son will stroll Waikiki Beach contemplating

where they will fly to next and making the aged veteran available to all comers.

"We're staying at the Marriott in Waikiki, and if anyone wants to meet [my father] personally, it's this easy — I kid you not," Paul said.

Go to www.gosidneygo.com, which has his cellphone listed.

"All they have to do is make a call, and we will meet them."

olson.wyatt@starsandstripes.com
Twitter: @WyattWalson

Ex-deputy slated to testify on response to school shooting

By TERRY SPENCER
Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — The then-Florida sheriff's deputy who didn't rush into the building as a gunman killed 17 high school students and staff members is scheduled to testify this week before the commission investigating the massacre, but could refuse by citing his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

Former Broward Sheriff's Deputy Scott Peterson is scheduled to testify Wednesday during the second day of this month's three-day hearing of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission.

Peterson, then the school's resource officer, is scheduled to testify about security camera video that shows him hurrying to the three-story freshman building, drawing his handgun but then remaining outside even though Broward County sheriff's officials say his training taught him to charge in and shoot the gunman.

He will also be given a chance to discuss that training and whether it was adequate.

But recent word that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement is investigating possible criminal misconduct in the law enforcement response to the shooting may allow Peterson to invoke his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. His attorney, Joseph DiRuzzo III, did not respond to emails and calls seeking comment.

The commission is composed of law enforcement, education and mental health officials, a legislator, and two fathers of victims:

Max Schachter and Ryan Petty. The members must file a report by Jan. 1 with findings on what caused the massacre and recommendations for preventing future school shootings.

Peterson, 55, was a decorated sheriff's deputy for 32 years but retired weeks after the shooting rather than face suspension, receiving a \$100,000 annual pension.

Peterson has insisted he did not know shots were coming from inside the freshman building. He said he thought a sniper might be outside the school. He couldn't pinpoint the shots, he said, because he heard only a few, not the 150 investigators say suspect Nikolas Cruz fired from an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle.

Most concede Peterson could not have prevented Cruz from killing 11 on the first floor — they were dead or mortally wounded when Peterson got to the building.

But he remained outside as investigators say Cruz climbed to the second floor, where he fired more shots. No one died there because students and teachers, hearing the first-floor shots, had locked their classrooms.

Cruz then went to the third floor. The smoke the shots created triggered the fire alarm, putting students into the hallway as they thought they needed to evacuate. Hearing the shots on the second floor, they were scrambling back into classrooms or fleeing toward the west stairwell when investigators say Cruz emerged from the east stairwell and opened fire, fatally wounding six.

No Columbus Day in Columbus; city to honor vets instead

By JULIE CARR SMYTH
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The largest U.S. city named for Christopher Columbus called off its observance of the divisive holiday that honors the explorer, making a savvy move to tie the switch to a politically safe democratic vehicle: the veterans.

Ohio's capital city, population 860,000, was open for business Monday after observing Columbus Day probably "for as long as it had been in existence," said Robin Davis, a spokeswoman for Democratic Mayor Andrew Ginther. City officials will close instead on Veterans Day, which falls on Nov. 12 this year.

Native Americans and allied groups have long used Columbus Day to elevate issues of concern to them.

That includes a peaceful protest of prayers, speeches and traditional singing in 1991 at Columbus City Hall — underneath the statue of the explorer that sits out front — to protest the Dakota Access



JAY LAURENCE/AP

Columbus, Ohio, the largest U.S. city named for Christopher Columbus, chose to not observe the holiday honoring the explorer.

Pipeline and to urge Ohio to support more renewable energy.

The decision to stop observing the

holiday was not triggered by the national movement to abolish Columbus Day in favor of Indigenous Peoples Day as a way of recognizing victims of colonialism, Davis said. Columbus Day marks the Italian explorer's arrival in the Americas on Oct. 12, 1492.

"We have a number of veterans who work for the city, and there are so many here in Columbus," Davis said. "We thought it was important to honor them with that day off." And, she said, the city doesn't have the budget to give its 8,500 employees both days off, she said.

Columbus made its announcement Thursday in a two-paragraph news release focused on the impact on trash pickup and parking enforcement schedules. In that way, it avoided much of the consternation that has taken place elsewhere around the holiday.

An attempt in Akron to rename the holiday grew ugly last year, dividing the liberal Democratic city council along racial lines.

Five black members voted to rename the holiday and eight white members voted not to, keeping the holiday in place.

A similar effort twice failed in Cincinnati before a vote Wednesday finally recognized Columbus Day as the renamed Indigenous Peoples Day.

It became the second Ohio city to do so, after the liberal college town of Oberlin in 2017.

Cleveland, which has a large Italian-American population, continues to host a major Columbus Day parade.

Tyrone Smith, director of the Native American Indian Center of Central Ohio, said the city's decision is another step in embracing its growing diversity.

"The past is the past. It may not be pretty at times, but we cannot hold what happened back then against today's society, regardless of their bloodline," he said. "The fact that the city of Columbus is taking action is a victory for everyone."

NATION

Trump says he has no plans to fire Rosenstein

By ERIC TUCKER
AND JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Monday he has no plans to fire Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, delivering a reprieve for the Justice Department official whose future has been the source of intense speculation for two weeks.

Trump told reporters at the White House that he had “a very good relationship” with Rosenstein and was eager to speak with him aboard Air Force One on a flight to Florida for the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference. They did talk, for about 30 minutes, but not alone, a spokesman said later.

The flight provides an opportunity for

their most extensive conversation since news reports last month that Rosenstein had discussed the possibilities in early 2017 of secretly recording Trump to expose chaos in the White House and invoking constitutional provisions to get him removed from office.

Those reports triggered an avalanche of speculation about the future of Rosenstein — and also the special counsel’s investigation into possible coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign since the deputy attorney general appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller to his post and closely oversees his work.

“I didn’t know Rod before, but I’ve gotten to know him,” Trump said Monday. “I look forward to flying with him. It’ll be very nice.”

The Justice Department denied that Rosenstein had proposed invoking the 25th Amendment of the Constitution and issued a statement that said the remark about recording the president was meant sarcastically.

Even so, Rosenstein told White House officials that he was willing to resign and arrived at the White House at one point with the expectation that he would be fired. He met in person with White House chief of staff John Kelly and spoke by phone with Trump during a tumultuous day that ended with him still in his job.

Rosenstein and Trump had been expected to meet at the White House days later, but that meeting was put off so that the president could focus on a confirmation hearing of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. It was not immediately clear if the flight would

substitute for the pre-planned White House meeting.

Trump previously had said that he would prefer not to fire the Justice Department’s No. 2 official and that Rosenstein has told him he did not say the remarks attributed to him. Advisers had also cautioned Trump against doing anything dramatic in the weeks before the midterm elections next month.

Trump is scheduled to appear at the police chiefs conference in Orlando. The Justice Department in his administration has said reducing violent crime and supporting local enforcement are priorities.

The speculation over Rosenstein’s future concerned Democrats, who feared that a dismissal could lead to Trump’s curtailing of Mueller’s probe.

McConnell open to high court pick in 2020

By HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate’s majority leader, insisting his chamber won’t be irreparably damaged by the bitter fight over new Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, is signaling he’s willing to take up another high court nomination in the 2020 presidential election season should another vacancy arise.

“We’ll see if there is a vacancy in 2020,” said Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Heading into pivotal midterm elections, McConnell tried to distinguish between President Donald Trump’s nomination of Kavanaugh this year and his own decision not to have the GOP-run Senate consider President Barack Obama’s high court nominee, Merrick Garland, in 2016. McConnell called the current partisan divide a “low point,” but he blamed Democrats.

“The Senate’s not broken,” McConnell said. “We didn’t attack Merrick Garland’s background and try to destroy him.” He asserted that “we simply followed the tradition of America.”

While McConnell said Kavanaugh’s confirmation was a shining moment for the GOP, some Republicans weren’t so sure. GOP Gov. John Kasich, of Ohio, predicted “a good year” for Democrats in the November elections and said he wonders about “the soul of our country” in the long term after the tumultuous hearings.

“It could be a short-term win,” he said.

The climactic 50-48 roll call vote Saturday on Kavanaugh was the closest vote to confirm a justice since 1881. It capped a fight that seized the national conversation after claims emerged that Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted women three decades ago. Kavanaugh emphatically denied the allegations.

The accusations transformed the clash from a routine struggle over judicial ideology into an angry jumble of questions about victims’ rights and personal attacks on nominees.

Ultimately, every Democratic voted against Kavanaugh except for Sen. Joe Manchin, of West Virginia.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., walks to his office at the Capitol in Washington just before Saturday’s final vote to confirm Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

Kavanaugh was sworn in Saturday evening in a private ceremony as protesters chanted outside the court building.

McConnell said the confirmation fight had energized Republican voters and he praised GOP senators, who he said reestablished the “presumption of innocence” in confirmation hearings.

“We stood up to the mob,” he said. “This is an important day for the United States Senate.”

Two years ago, McConnell blocked a vote on Garland, citing what he said was a tradition of not filling vacancies in a presidential election year. But when asked again Sunday about it, he sought to clarify that a Senate case in 1880 suggested inaction on a nominee only when the chamber was controlled by the party opposing the president.

Republicans currently hold a 51-49 majority in the Senate, with several seats up for grabs in November. The court’s two oldest justices are Democratic appointees. Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 85 and Stephen Breyer is 80.

If you have a Senate of a different party than the president, “you don’t fill a vacancy created in the presidential year,” McConnell said.

Trump now has put his stamp on the court with his second justice in as many years. Yet Kavanaugh is joining under a cloud.

Accusations from several women remain under scrutiny, and House Democrats have pledged further investigation if they win the majority in November. Outside groups are culling an unusually long paper trail from his previous government and political work, with the National Archives and Records Administration expected to release a cache of millions of documents later this month.

Still, Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., said he believed it would be premature for Democrats to talk about reinvestigating Kavanaugh or a possible impeachment if the party takes control of the chamber in November, stressing a need to help heal the country.

“Frankly, we are just less than a month away from an election,” Coons said. “Folks who feel very strongly one way or the other about the issues in front of us should get out and vote and participate.”

McConnell spoke on “Fox News Sunday” and CBS’ “Face the Nation.” Kasich appeared on CNN’s “State of the Union” and Coons was on NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

Kavanaugh fight stirs passions for both parties

By SAHIL KAPUR
Bloomberg

The most acrimonious Supreme Court confirmation battle in modern times hardened the fault lines in U.S. politics that put President Donald Trump into office but now could give enraged Democratic voters the added motivation to oust Republicans from control of the House.

The fight over Brett Kavanaugh’s elevation to the nation’s highest court inflamed the voting bases of both parties a month before pivotal congressional elections. Republicans hope to gain in their quest to hold the Senate, as the Kavanaugh fight resurrected a defining issue that links the evangelical base to Trump: dreams of a generational lock on a conservative Supreme Court.

Still, backlash politics historically have been the driving force in midterm elections — it’s the first chance for voters to weigh in on the president they picked just two years earlier. Traditionally, buyer’s remorse has meant the party in the White House suffers significant losses.

“For Democrats, there’s been a tremendous amount of motivation brought on by the Trump presidency, and this has taken it over the top. We could not have had a more stark reminder of what’s at stake in these elections,” said Donna Edwards, a former Democratic representative from Maryland. “It’s not going to be forgotten.”

Edwards said the Kavanaugh fight would help Democrats flip as many as 20 Republican-held districts with “lots of suburban, college-educated, white women,” who polls show are breaking for Democrats by a 2-to-1 margin.

Fifty percent of those surveyed for a Washington Post-Sharash poll of 69 battleground districts released Monday said they prefer Democratic presidential candidates, compared with 46 percent who backed Republicans, in the latest sign of potential trouble for the GOP. The same districts broke for Republicans 51 to 46 percent two years ago, according to the survey.

The Senate is a different picture, with 12 out of the 13 most conservative races in states won by Trump in 2016. Some recent surveys show an enthusiasm boost among Republican voters, as Trump and his party allies have said repeatedly that Kavanaugh was treated unfairly by ideological opponents. If Republican voters stay mobilized, it’s likely to boost the party’s prospects of retaining or expanding its razor-thin 51-49 Senate advantage.

NATION

Rocket carrying satellite takes off successfully

Associated Press

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carried an Argentinian Earth-observation satellite into space Sunday and for the first time landed a first-stage booster back at its California launch site.

The primary purpose of the mission was to place the SAOCOM 1A satellite into orbit, but SpaceX also wanted to expand its recovery of first stages to its launch site at Vandenberg Air Force Base, about 130 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

SpaceX had previously flown first-stage rockets back to land after Florida launches but had not done so on the West Coast.

The Air Force last week advised residents on the central California coast they might see multiple engine burns by the first stage and hear one or more

sonic booms as it returned.

SpaceX also has successfully landed Falcon 9 first stages on so-called drone ships off the coasts of Florida and California, all as part of its effort to decrease the cost of space launches by reusing rockets rather than allowing them to fall into the ocean.

The satellite is the first of two for Argentina's space agency, Comision Nacional de Actividades Espaciales, and will work in conjunction with a constellation of Italian space agency satellites. Its name is short for Satellite Argentino de Observacion Con Microondas.

SAOCOM 1A carries a high-resolution instrument called a synthetic aperture radar that will be used for emergency management during disasters and for land monitoring. The second satellite will be SAOCOM 1B.



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying an Argentinian satellite blasts off from the Vandenberg Air Force Base launch site in California on Sunday.

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NATION



PHOTOS BY JEFF CHIU/AP

Work crews remove debris last November at the site of a home destroyed by fires in the Coffey Park area of Santa Rosa, Calif.

Calif. wildfire victims say Army-contracted cleanup crews added to woes

By PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — One year after a devastating series of wildfires ripped through Northern California wine country, destroying thousands of homes, the Army Corps of Engineers' first experience cleaning up after a wildfire has turned into an expensive bureaucratic mess, and California's top emergency official suspects fraud played a role.

In October 2017, state and local officials lacked the resources to clear still-smoldering and toxic debris quickly from 4,500 homes destroyed by a wildfire in and near Santa Rosa. So the Corps was called in.

The Corps was in charge of awarding \$1.3 billion in cleanup contracts to three contractors, which hired dozens of smaller companies to haul away the debris and dispose of it in landfills. The hauling companies were paid by the ton. The more they hauled, the more they earned.

The first complaints started almost as soon as the first dump truck was loaded in November. Homeowners said workers were digging too deeply and were taking too much dirt from their lots. They also said perfectly fine driveways, retaining walls, sidewalks and the like were damaged or removed.

By the summer, nearly 1,000 homeowners had flooded Corps, state and local officials with complaints. After its contractors hauled away 2 million tons of debris, the Corps declared the mission accomplished and left without responding to homeowners' complaints, said Sonoma County Supervisor Shirlee Zane.

"These folks were traumatized by the fire and then traumatized again by the cleanup," said Zane, who represents Santa Rosa's hardest-hit neighborhoods. "Some-



Rick Brown, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, watches work crews remove fire debris in Santa Rosa on Nov. 8. The California Office of Emergency Services complained to the Corps that contractors it paid to clear debris caused additional damage.

one needed to help us."

In August, Zane and a contingent of Sonoma County officials trekked to the state capital in Sacramento and persuaded the California Office of Emergency Services to fix what the Army wouldn't.

Director Mark Ghilarducci said the Office of Emergency Services has spent millions of dollars repairing the damage, and more work remains. In a letter sent last month, Ghilarducci demanded that the Corps reimburse the state and return to California to fix the lots still in need of repair.

Ghilarducci said it's "probable" that unscrupulous contractors committed fraud, citing "egregious oversight" by federal officials.

"Given these subcontractors were paid per ton of soil removed, it is probable this over-excavation was an intentional effort to capitalize on this tragedy by defrauding the government," Ghilarducci wrote to the Corps last month.

Corps spokesman Mike Petersen said no evidence of fraud has been reported. He said the Federal Emergency Management Agency was preparing a response to Ghilarducci's letter.

Ghilarducci also argued the Corps failed to properly monitor the cleanup and its subcontractors' performance.

"Due to this egregious oversight," Ghilarducci wrote, "contractors caused substantial damage to many survivors' properties resulting in revictimization of the affected wildfire survivors."

Several of them were cited by the Contractors State License Board for operating without licenses.

In addition, the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration fined Chico-based Randy Hill Construction \$11,700 after one of its workers was struck fatally by a truck while dumping debris. The agency found the truck's safety system was disconnected improperly and that was the reason it accidentally started and ran over Ezekiel Sumner, 60, in December.

Hill Construction did not return phone calls.

Petersen said conditions varied widely at the 4,563 properties Corps contractors cleared in four counties, and some sites required extensive digging to remove contaminated soil.

He said the Corps was satisfied with the work of the three main contractors, and "the great majority of subcontractors on the program operated with high professional standards." The Corps is a major Army command, comprising about 37,000 civilian and military personnel.

Petersen said it was one of the biggest cleanup jobs after a natural disaster for the Corps, which is routinely called in after hurricanes and earthquakes but lacks experience with wildfires.

"This caused issues in the debris removal process," the U.S. Government Accountability Office concluded in a report released last month.

The GAO report made no recommendations but noted the cleanup effort was

California's biggest since the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

Most complaints about the cleanup have come from Santa Rosa residents and other Sonoma County residents where the wildfire struck an urban center. But at least 100 homeowners in rural Mendocino County have lodged complaints of "over excavation."

Karen Erickson

California resident whose home was destroyed by wildfire

said the contractors added at least \$200,000 to the cost of rebuilding her destroyed Santa Rosa home. She said contractors needlessly removed an undamaged driveway and dug so deep on her lot that they damaged her water pipes.

Because the contractors showed up after an insurance adjuster inspected her property, Erickson said the damage done to her property by the cleanup wasn't factored into her insurance reimbursement.

"Paying those guys by the ton was stupid," she said. "Who wouldn't load their trucks with as much as they could?"

‘Paying those guys by the ton was stupid. Who wouldn’t load their trucks with as much as they could?’

WORLD



KOH SASAHARA/AP

Tai Yamaguchi, of fish wholesaler Hitoku Shoten, speaks during an interview last month at the Tsukiji fish market in Tokyo, which closed Saturday to move to a new location.

Tokyo's famed Tsukiji fish market moving to new site despite unease

By YURI KAGEYAMA
Associated Press

TOKYO — After years of delays, Tokyo's 80-year-old Tsukiji fish market closed Saturday to move to a more modern facility on reclaimed industrial land in Tokyo Bay.

The new, \$5 billion facility at Toyosu will open on Thursday, over the objections of many working in Tsukiji who contend the new site is contaminated, inconvenient and unsafe.

"If the new place were better, I'll be happy to move," said Tai Yamaguchi, whose family has run fish wholesaler Hitoku Shoten since 1964.

The leader of a group of 30 women whose families run shops in Tsukiji opposed to the move, Yamaguchi, 75, feels it has been mishandled by authorities who failed to fully consult those affected. "They are hiding so much," she said.

Tsukiji now has more than 500 wholesalers employing several thousand people. About 40,000 people visit each day. Much of the angst over the move has to do with closing down a beloved local institution.

A labyrinth of quaint sushi stalls and shops selling knives and ice cream encircling the huge wholesale market famous for its predawn haggling over deep-fro-



YURI KAGEYAMA/AP

People protest against moving the market during a rally in Tokyo.

zen tuna and other harvests from the sea, Tsukiji has been supplying Tokyo's fancy restaurants and everyday supermarkets since 1935. Its origins go back nearly a century.

Opponents of the move fear tourists will be less likely to visit out-of-the-way Toyosu, which resembles a huge, modern factory and lacks the picturesque quality of Tsukiji.

Makoto Nakazawa, 54, who has worked in Tsukiji for more than 30 years, said he dislikes the new space he will be working in and is angry over the closure of a market that has "fed Tokyo for years."

Tsukiji is special, a place of unusual diversity in conformist Japan where misfits like avant-garde theater actors and convicts are accepted, Nakazawa said.

"People who want us out want to redevelop this place. I can't imagine any other reason," he said. "There's obviously money to be made."

Some of Tsukiji's sprawling shops will remain in their old locale surrounding the market site. But the wholesale market itself, which clears an average of about \$14.5 million worth of seafood a day, is leaving for good after a decade of controversy.

for the result to stand.

Election officials said just 20.41 percent of eligible voters participated in the weekend referendum.

Gay rights group Accept said the result showed citizens "want a Romania based upon democratic values."

China urges US to repair relationship

Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese officials appealed to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday to repair relations they said have been damaged by U.S. tariff increases and support for Taiwan as their governments press North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons.

Pompeo said at the start of his talks with Foreign Minister Wang Yi that Washington has a "fundamental disagreement" and "great concerns" about Chinese actions and looked forward to discussing them. Reporters were then ushered from the room.

The polite but edgy tone underscored the pledge in U.S.-Chinese relations as the administration of President Donald Trump confronts Beijing over its technology policies and territorial claims in the South China Sea. Trump also approved a weapons sale to Taiwan, the policy he ruled out in Communist mainland claims as its own territory, and sanctioned a Chinese company and its leader over an arms purchase from Russia.

Those developments came as the countries have raised tariffs on tens of billions of dollars of each other's goods in a dispute over U.S. complaints that Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology.

At the same time, the United States and China are cooperating on efforts to pressure North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to give up his country's nuclear weapons and long-range missile programs.

Pompeo met Wang and Yang Jiechi, a senior Cabinet official and former foreign minister, after talks Sunday with Kim in North Korea's capital, Pyongyang. Pompeo also visited Japan and South Korea, where he said Monday in Seoul that there had been "significant progress" toward an agreement for the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

Wang appealed to Pompeo to cease actions that Beijing sees as threatening its interests in order to avoid disrupting cooperation over North Korea and other issues.

"While the U.S. side has consistently calculated trade frictions with China, it has also taken actions regarding Taiwan that harm China's core interests," Wang said.

In their later meeting, Yang expressed Chinese frustration with Washington while avoiding specifics, telling Pompeo relations are "facing challenges." Washington and Beijing "should and must make the correct choices," Yang said. "We hope the United States and China can meet each other halfway and conscientiously fulfill the important consensus reached by the leaders of both countries."

In Seoul, Pompeo said he and Kim had agreed to soon begin working-level talks on details of denuclearization and placement of international inspectors at one of North Korea's main nuclear facilities.

Kremlin plans to host Kim in Russia

MOSCOW — The Kremlin said it is working on plans to host North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Moscow.

Dmitry Peskov, spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin, said Monday that Putin extended an invitation to Kim last month to visit Russia and that Moscow is working on the details of where and when that meeting could happen.

Peskov's comments follow a visit to North Korea by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to discuss the country's nuclear disarmament and setting up another meeting between Kim and President Donald Trump. The North Korea entered talks with the U.S. and South Korea earlier this year, saying it's willing to negotiate away its advancing nuclear arsenal.

Nuclear diplomacy later stalled because of suspicions over how sincere North Korea is about its disarmament pledge.

From The Associated Press

Pompeo said they came close to finalizing a date and venue for the next Kim-Trump meeting.

"It's a long process," Pompeo told reporters. "We made significant progress. We'll continue to make significant progress, and we are further along in making that progress than any administration in an awfully long time."

Trump, tweeting from Washington shortly after Pompeo left North Korea, cited progress Pompeo had made on agreements Trump and Kim reached at the June summit in Singapore and said, "I look forward to seeing Chairman Kim again in the near future."

Pompeo said he and Kim had gotten "pretty close" to fixing the logistics for the summit but stressed that something that last inch is hard to close.

"Most importantly, both the leaders believe there is real progress that can be made, substantive progress that can be made at the next summit, and so we are going to get it at a time that works for each of the two leaders and at a place that works for both of them," he said.

North Korea's state-run news agency, KCNA, meanwhile, said Monday that Kim had "expressed his wish and conviction that a great progress would surely be made in solving the issues of utmost concern of the world."

In an early Monday dispatch, KCNA called the talks "productive and wonderful" and said "mutual stands were fully understood and opinions exchanged."

Romania voids vote to redefine marriage

Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Romanian election officials say more than 90 percent of those who took part in a national referendum supported defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman, but the vote was invalidated as too few people cast ballots.

The Central Electoral Commission said Monday that near-final results showed 91.61 percent of voters approved a constitutional amendment to change the definition of marriage — it currently says it's a union between "spouses."

But the ballot failed to attract the minimum 30 percent turnout

for the result to stand.

Election officials said just 20.41 percent of eligible voters participated in the weekend referendum.

Gay rights group Accept said the result showed citizens "want a Romania based upon democratic values."

WORLD



DITA ALANGKARA/AP

Rescuers remove the body of an earthquake victim from the devastated village of Balaroa in Palu, central Sulawesi, Indonesia, on Monday.

Confirmed deaths near 2,000 in Indonesia; more expected

By ANDI JATMIKO
Associated Press

PALU, Indonesia — The death toll from the devastating earthquake and tsunami on Indonesia's Sulawesi island neared 2,000 on Monday, but thousands more are believed unaccounted for, and officials said search teams plan to stop looking for victims later this week.

The official toll hit 1,948, mostly in the hard-hit city of Palu, said Jamaluddin, an official from the disaster task force who uses one name. He corrected the number during a news conference in Jakarta after initially saying it was 1,944. He said a navy ship had docked in the area and opened a field hospital.

Willem Rampangilei, head of the National Board for Disaster Management, said there could be as many as 5,000 victims still buried in deep mud in Balaroa and Petobo, two of Palu's hardest-hit neighborhoods. But he added that number must be verified by his teams because it is an unofficial figure which came from village heads in the area. The Sept. 28 quake caused loose, wet soil to liquefy there. It is too soft to use heavy equipment for recovery, and decomposition of bodies is already advanced.

"It is impossible to rebuild in areas with high liquefaction risk such as Petobo and Balaroa," he said, adding that villages there will be relocated.

Talks were underway with re-

ligious authorities and surviving family members to decide whether some areas could be turned into mass graves for victims entombed there, with monuments built to remember them.

Officials reiterated that the search is expected to end on Thursday. However, the deadline could be extended if needed.

Rampangilei said life is starting to return to normal in some areas affected by the disaster. Immediate food and water needs have been met, and the local government has started to function again. Many schools have been destroyed, but he said classes will resume where possible. However, many students are still too scared to return.

Miro said, "I intend to destroy, destroy everything that exists in painting."

When it was put to Miro that he still, despite the rhetoric, produced paintings, he replied: "What can I say? I can't be anything other than a painter. Every challenge to painting is a paradox — from the moment that challenge is expressed in the work."

It's easy to imagine Banksy, who does very well in the art market these days, voicing a similar sentiment.

Closer to our own time, Banksy's compatriot, Michael Landy, shocked the British public when, in 2001, he gathered together all his 7,227 belongings — including his car (a Saab), his toothbrush, his passport and birth certificate, and even art works — disassembled any bigger items, catalogued them, put them on trays on a conveyor belt and fed them into a machine that smashed, shredded and pulverized them. All this was performed in public, in a storefront in central London.

Banksy: Had Picasso in mind with art stunt

By SEBASTIAN SMEE
The Washington Post

Pablo Picasso once called painting "a sum of destructions." Banksy, the anonymous British graffiti artist and popular provocateur, admitted he had Picasso in mind when he pulled off the most memorable art world prank in years.

As millions of people now know, Banksy's "Girl With Balloon," a 2006 spray painting on canvas, self-destructed a few moments after the hammer came down on it at a Sotheby's contemporary art auction in London on Friday. The auction was held in Frieze Week, when collectors from around the world descend on central London for the Frieze art fair.

"Girl With Balloon" had just sold for \$1.4 million when an alarm sounded in the auction room. The canvas then began sliding down inside its frame, emerg-

ing at the bottom in strips, having been shredded by a remote-control mechanism on the back of the frame.

Kudos to Banksy. What a brilliant way to flip the bird at wealthy collectors, art world b.s. and the gawking media. Put one of your own works up for auction, watch the bidding edge an auction record for your work and then, when the hammer comes down, have it self-destruct. Banksy had outdone himself. But to what end?

"The urge to destroy is also a creative urge," he wrote, quoting Picasso, in an Instagram post after the event. Picasso was right: Creation and destruction are intertwined. And some things, let's face it, need undoing.

Destruction has long been a calling card of avant-garde art. With cubism, Picasso and Georges Braque destroyed the idea of conventional likenesses. The artists of the dada and Surrealist movements, scarred by the irrationality of World War I, tried to destroy reason itself. And in 1931, Joan

US objects to Iran's UN case over frozen assets

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

The U.S. on Monday urged the United Nations' highest court to toss out a case filed by Iran that seeks to recover about \$2 billion worth of frozen assets the U.S. Supreme Court awarded to victims of a 1983 bombing in Lebanon and other attacks linked to Iran.

The case at the International Court of Justice is based on a bilateral treaty that the Trump administration terminated last week. Despite that, the United States sent a large legal delegation to the court's headquarters in The Hague to present their objections to the case, which Tehran filed in 2016.

U.S. State Department lawyer Richard Visek told the 15-judge panel of U.S. objections to the court's jurisdiction and admissibility "provide a clear basis for ruling that this case should not proceed to the merits."

Visek said the case is based on "malicious conduct" by Iran, a country Washington has long classified as a state sponsor of terrorism around the world. Iran denies that charge.

"At the outset, we should be clear as to what this case is about," Visek said. "The actions at the root

of this case center on Iran's support for international terrorism and its complaints about the U.S. legal framework that allows victims of that terrorism to hold Iran accountable to judicial proceedings and receive compensation for their tragic losses."

The attack at the heart of the case was a suicide truck bombing of a U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut in October 1983 that killed 241 military personnel and wounded many more. A U.S. court ruled that the attack was carried out by an Iranian agent supported by the Hezbollah militant group.

In 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered some \$2 billion in assets of Iran's state bank that had been frozen in the United States to be paid as compensation to relatives of victims of attacks, including the Beirut bombing.

"Iran's effort to secure relief from the court in this case — to in effect deny terrorism victims justice — is wholly unfounded, and its application should be rejected in its entirety as inadmissible," Visek told judges, saying that the dispute did not fall into the 1955 Treaty of Amity cited by Tehran as the basis for the court's jurisdiction.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo withdrew the United States from the treaty last week, saying the decision was long overdue.



LEFTERIS PITRANKIS/AP

Members of the Turkish-Arab journalist association hold posters with photos of missing Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi as they protest near the Saudi Arabia consulate in Istanbul on Monday.

Saudi cooperation in case of missing journalist requested

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey has summoned the Saudi ambassador in Ankara to request Riyadh's "full cooperation" in an investigation over missing journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Khashoggi, 59, went missing Oct. 2 while visiting the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul for paperwork to marry his Turkish fiancée.

A Turkish official said the Saudi ambassador met with Deputy Foreign Minister Sedat Onal on Sunday at the ministry.

The Turkish private NTV station said Ankara requested permission for Turkish investigators to search the consulate building in Istanbul.

Turkish officials claim that the Washington Post contributor

was slain at the consulate and his body was later removed from the building.

Saudi officials have denied the allegations as baseless. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said he would await the results of an investigation.

The consulate insists that Khashoggi left its premises, contradicting Turkish officials.

The Saudi writer spent last year in the U.S. in self-imposed exile after he fled the kingdom amid a crackdown on intellectuals and activists who criticized the policies of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

A Foreign Ministry official told The Associated Press that Turkey has "deepened" its investigation without providing further detail.

WORLD



DARRO VOJNOVIC/AP

Milorad Dodik, president of the Republic of Srpska, leaves after a news conference Sunday in the Bosnian town of Banja Luka. Dodik declared victory in the race to fill the Serb seat in Bosnia's three-member presidency.

Pro-Russia Serb leader wins seat in Bosnia's presidency

By JOVANA GEC
Associated Press

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Pro-Russia Serb leader Milorad Dodik won a race to fill the Serb seat in Bosnia's three-member presidency Sunday, deepening ethnic divisions in the country that faced a brutal war some 25 years ago.

Preliminary official results from the election gave Dodik 56 percent of the vote and his main opponent, Miladen Ivanic, 42 percent. The projections were made with 44 percent of ballots counted.

"The will of the people leaves no doubt what they want," Dodik said, adding that voters "punished" his opponent for his "servile policies toward the West."

Ivanic conceded defeat. Complete official returns were expected Monday.

Dodik advocates the eventual separation of Serbs from Bosnia. His election to the three-person

presidency, which also has a Muslim member and a Croat member, deals a blow to efforts to strengthen unity in the country, where ethnic divisions fueled the 1992-95 war that killed 100,000 people and left millions homeless.

"The number one priority for my job in the future will be the position of the Serb people and Republic of Srpska," Dodik said, referring to the Serb-run mini-state he has led since 2010 and which resulted from a 1995 peace settlement.

The general election was seen as an indicator of Bosnia's future direction — moving toward integration in the European Union and NATO or driven by entrenched rivalries and friction.

Russian President Vladimir Putin had endorsed the openly anti-West Dodik. The U.S. has imposed sanctions on Dodik for actively obstructing efforts to implement the 1995 Dayton Accords that ended the Bosnian war.

Voters in Sunday's election

filled positions in the complex governing system the peace accord created. The country consists of two regional entities — the Serb-run Republika Srpska and a Muslim-Croat federation — with joint institutions in a central government.

Supporters of a unified, multi-ethnic Bosnia found encouragement in the lead a moderate candidate for the Croat position in the tripartite presidency held after the partial count. Zeljko Komšic had 49 percent, while national contender Dragan Covic had 38 percent.

Covic advocated further fragmentation of Bosnia with the creation of a separate entity for the country's Croats. However, Komšic's likely victory still could trigger discord within the Muslim-Croat federation.

Sefik Dzaferovic, from the ruling Party of Democratic Action, won the Muslim seat in the presidency.

Jerusalem mayor wants UN relief agency out of city

By JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Jerusalem's outgoing mayor is calling on the international community to consider his proposal to end the local operations of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, saying there is "no such thing" as a refugee in the city.

In an interview, Nir Barkat, who is leaving office after elections later this month, said Sunday that he was inspired to make his proposal after the U.S. cut off \$300 million in funding to the agency last month.

Barkat's proposal marks the latest assault by Israel and the U.S. against the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. U.S. budget cuts have sent the agency into a financial crisis and have drawn Palestinian accusations that Israel and the U.S. are trying to erase the refugee issue from the international agenda.

Barkat accused UNRWA schools of using textbooks that promote anti-Israel incitement, and said Israel can provide much better education and health care services to Palestinians who rely on the agency. The U.S. funding cuts will only widen those gaps, he said.

"I look at all of my residents as residents. There's no such thing as residents that live in the city of Jerusalem that are defined as refugees," he said. "We will treat them like any other residents in the city and provide the best services we can."

Barkat's plan faces significant obstacles. For starters, he does not appear to have the legal authority to shut down an international agency that was created by the U.N. General Assembly decades ago and continues to have wide international backing. He said the Israeli government is studying the proposal.

In addition, taking on the responsibility of providing services

to Jerusalem's more than 12,000 Palestinians who rely on UNRWA will be an additional burden for the cash-strapped municipality.

The city's roughly 340,000 Palestinians live overwhelmingly in impoverished neighborhoods of east Jerusalem that already suffer from poor services, overcrowded schools and inadequate infrastructure.

The Shuafat refugee camp, where most of the city's refugees live, lies on the outskirts of the city behind Israel's West Bank separation barrier.

Barkat, however, encouraged the U.N. and others to consider his proposal with "an open mind."

He said that during his term, he has made great strides toward improving education and other services in Palestinian areas. He said the UNRWA crisis is another "opportunity" to serve Palestinians.

UNRWA already has expressed concerns about Barkat's proposal. It said the agency operates under an international mandate and a formal agreement with Israel and remains "determined" to continue carrying out its services.

UNRWA was founded following the war surrounding Israel's independence to assist some 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were forced from their homes in the fighting. Today, it serves more than 5 million Palestinians across the Middle East.

Seen by the Palestinians and most of the international community as providing a valuable safety net, UNRWA is viewed far differently by Israel.

It accuses the agency of perpetuating the conflict by helping promote what it considers an unrealistic Palestinian demand that refugees have the "right of return" to long-lost homes in what is now Israel.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said UNRWA should be abolished. Netanyahu's office declined to comment on the Barkat proposal.

China accuses ex-Interpol chief of bribery, other crimes

By GILLIAN WONG
Associated Press

BEIJING — China is investigating the former president of Interpol for bribery and other crimes, Beijing said Monday in a notice that indicated the Chinese official also might be in trouble for political transgressions.

Meng Hongwei, China's vice minister for public security, was being investigated as a result of his "willfulness" and has only himself to blame, according to a statement posted on a government website.

The scant details provided on Monday raised further questions about the

scope of the allegations made against Meng and whether they pertain in any way to his work at the international police agency. They also shone an unflattering light on secretive, extralegal detentions in China that have ensnared dissidents and allegedly corrupt or disloyal officials alike at increasing rates under the authoritarian rule of President Xi Jinping.

Monday's notice of a high-level meeting of public security officials elaborated on



Meng

a terse announcement late Sunday by an anti-graft agency of the ruling Communist Party that said Meng was suspected of unspecified crimes. The Sunday announcement was issued barely an hour after Meng's wife made a bold appeal to the world for help from Lyon, France, where she is based.

Meng is the latest high-ranking official, and one with an unusually prominent international standing, to fall victim to a sweeping crackdown by the ruling Communist Party on graft and perceived disloyalty. Shortly after China's announcement about the investigation on Sunday, Interpol said

Meng, 64, had resigned as the international police agency's president.

Chinese officials appeared to be scrambling to respond to an unfolding scandal. In the early hours of Monday, Zhao Lezhi, the minister for public security, chaired a meeting attended by senior officials of the ministry's party committee to discuss Meng's case, the statement said.

"We should deeply recognize the serious damage that Meng Hongwei's bribe-taking and suspected violations of the law have caused the party and the cause of public security and deeply learn from this lesson," Monday's announcement said.

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OPINION

Collins, Kavanaugh and the post-truth GOP

By Francis Wilkinson
Bloomberg News

The shouting phase of the Brett Kavanaugh saga is over. The Senate voted Saturday to elevate Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. It's worth noting, however, that in a battle over whether a woman's claims against a powerful man were to be believed, the decisive event was a speech by a woman who had no expectation, or even intention, of being believed herself.

Sen. Susan Collins alone occupied the defining hour of the drama. And her speech Friday — far more than anything said by Kavanaugh or by his accuser Christine Blasey Ford — will be the document that represents this chapter of history. Its implications are harrowing.

Collins's speech offered a series of ostensible rationales for her vote in favor of Kavanaugh. But her rationales were reminiscent of Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell feigning outrage over the perfidious delaying tactics of Democrats — not so long after he completely blocked the nomination of Merrick Garland.

McConnell didn't expect his protests to be taken seriously. He was showing the Republican base, which has been conditioned by President Donald Trump to savor such displays, that he could spin out an absurd falsehood in service to the cause. Remember the Russian claim that assassins dispatched with deadly toxin were actually tourists just visiting Britain to see a well-cathedra? The level of contempt for truth is a comic level of gas-lighting — is the whole point.

Collins offered some traditional partisan fare. She unwound a lengthy complaint about the involvement of liberal interest groups in a nomination process that was organized and dominated by conserva-

tive interest groups. But she anchored her speech in the vapors of Trump and McConnell's post-truth, confirming it as the lingua franca of the entire party.

Collins' gassiest passage cited the long history of GOP betrayal of anti-abortion activists, who have seen Republican presidents repeatedly appoint pro-choice justices to the court. Then, amazingly, she assured her audience that the GOP's most loyal voters were about to get the shiv yet again.

Opponents frequently cite then-candidate Trump's campaign pledge to nominate only judges who would overturn Roe. The Republican platform for all presidential campaigns has included this pledge since at least 1980. During this time, Republican presidents have appointed Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, David Souter and Anthony Kennedy to the Supreme Court. These are the very three justices — Republican president John G. Roberts, who authored the Casey decision, which reaffirmed Roe.

In essence, Collins said that the GOP platform, like pledges from GOP presidents, is a recurring fraud perpetrated on one of the party's most devoted voting blocs. Collins then said that anyone who belied the "Justice Kavanaugh" slogan selected to do the bidding of conservative ideologues was mistaken, just as the pro-choice opponents of Kennedy, O'Connor and Souter had been.

If Collins had expected her portrayal of Kavanaugh to be believed, she would have gone into it immediately after her speech to avoid the anti-abortion activists. Many consider Kennedy, O'Connor and Souter traitors for upholding Roe v. Wade. Their sense of betrayal is acute.

Yet no riot ensued. Anti-abortion activists are part of the base. They perceived Collins' claims about Kavanaugh and Roe as the kind of utilitarian lie that's increas-

ingly standard in GOP discourse. On Saturday, before the final vote, the homepage of the National Right to Life organization displayed no fear of Kavanaugh. Instead it featured the directive: "Tell the U.S. Senate: Confirm Brett Kavanaugh."

Collins argued that not only is Kavanaugh "more of a centrist than some of his critics maintain," but also he's practically the second coming of his appeals court colleague Garland.

Garland and Kavanaugh voted "the same way in 93 percent of the cases that they heard together," Collins said. Indeed, the two men are so nearly interchangeable that McConnell decided it was worth brutally damaging the U.S. Senate to deny Garland a seat, and that it was subsequently worth despoiling the Supreme Court to elevate Kavanaugh.

For McConnell, who votes with Collins 9 of every 10 times in the current Congress, the two judges are not exactly twins.

On the central issue of the relative credibility of Ford and Kavanaugh, Collins echoed the GOP refrain. "I found her testimony to be sincere, painful and compelling," she said. "I believe that she is a survivor of a sexual assault and that this trauma has upended her life."

Indeed, Collins believed Ford completely but for the one detail about which Ford said she was "100 percent" certain: that Kavanaugh had assaulted her.

In reality, like her Republican colleagues, Collins either didn't believe Ford was telling the truth or didn't particularly care what the truth might be. And Collins expected her own speech to be similarly dismissed by its intended audiences. With truth a steady devaluing currency, Collins cashed out.

Francis Wilkinson writes editorials on politics and U.S. domestic policy for Bloomberg Opinion. He was executive editor of The Week, a communications consultant and a political media strategist.

Iraq election results bring an opportunity to US

By ELI LAKE
Bloomberg Opinion

The new government in Baghdad has evoked two broad reactions in Washington: hope and dread.

My Bloomberg Opinion colleague Meghan O'Sullivan is encouraged by Iraq's new president, designated prime minister, Barham Salih and Adil Abdul-Mahdi. Both men have long-standing relationships with the U.S. government and have played important roles in building a new Iraq from the ashes of Saddam Hussein's tyranny.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., is more pessimistic looking at Iraq's new government, he declared Iran the "clear winner," tweeting that the chief of Iran's potent Quds Force, Qassem Soleimani, had brokered the deal for the new government.

U.S. and Iraqi officials with whom I spoke told me the Iraqis didn't get everything they wanted, but neither did the Americans. Salih and Abdul-Mahdi represent a kind of compromise. The Iraqis supported the coalition of Shiite religious parties represented by former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and militia leaders like Hadi al-Amiri. Iran also favored an older Kurdish candidate for the presidency favored by Iraq's Shiite majority.

U.S. special envoy Brett McGurk, on the other hand, favored the deal of candidates affiliated with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi. McGurk was instrumental in getting the Iraqi parliament to support al-Abadi over al-Maliki in 2014, a key condition for deeper U.S. military involvement in the fight against Islamic State.

In the end, it was an Iraqi who was most

influential in the negotiations. Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the 88-year-old head of the Shiite hawzas of Najaf, set the stage for Abdul-Mahdi's selection as prime minister when he released a statement urging "new faces" in the next government. That ruled out al-Maliki and al-Abadi.

Al-Sistani's position was understandable. The party that won the largest bloc of parliament seats in May was affiliated with the rebellious cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, a leader of the Shiite insurrection against U.S. forces in Iraq in 2004 and 2005 who has emerged as a fierce critic of Iranian influence in Iraq in recent years. His bloc, which includes communists and other outsiders, was most blunt in criticizing the corruption that has become endemic to Baghdad politics.

The unrest and desire for change has only become more pronounced since the spring. Protesters torched government ministry buildings and the Iranian Consulate last month in Basra, Iraq's third-largest city, and a fire broke out for its chief export, oil. They demanded more jobs, a functioning power grid and an end to widespread corruption. One of the organizers of those protests, a human rights activist named Suad al-Ali, was shot dead in the street last month.

Al-Ali's murder also coincides with renewed threats from Iran-backed militias against the United States. U.S. officials tell me there is an increasing risk that those militias intend to kidnap Americans in Iraq. That's one factor that led the U.S. to suspend operations in its consulate in Basra. Another is U.S. allegations that those militias fired rockets and mortar rounds at the consulate last month.

Hostility between the U.S. and Shiite militias is nothing new. One such group, Asaib al-Haq, was responsible for the brutal murder of U.S. troops near Karbala in 2007. More recently, however, there has been an uneasy cease-fire between U.S. forces and the militias during the fight against ISIS.

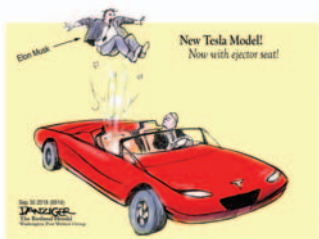
What does all this have to do with the new government in Iraq? Before the election in May and the recent protests in Basra, Iraqis are making it clear that they don't want to be a vassal state of Iran. This presents an opportunity. The new Iraqi government will have to show its independence. With a little skill and luck, the U.S. can quietly give Abdul-Mahdi the support he needs to push back against Iran and address the economic misery in places like Basra.

To do that, however, the U.S. needs to signal its commitment to Iraqi cities under threat from the militias. Barbara Leaf, who served as a senior U.S. diplomat in Basra in 2010 and 2011, told me when she served there, the consulate was shelled two to three times a week. By suspending operations in Basra, she said, the U.S. is sending the wrong message "not just to the Iraqi government, but to the Iraqi people." She added, "And there is an entire audience for this message: Suleimani has many proxies in Iraq. Surely he needs to know that a few threats and errant rockets cannot drive the U.S. out of a city whose people are fed up with the thieves and terrorists who he has empowered."

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for the Daily Beast and covered national security and intelligence for The Washington Times.

Looking at the news

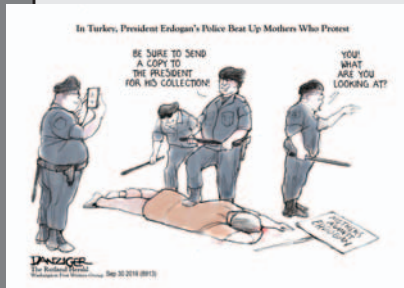
A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



JEFF DANZIGER/Washington Post News Service



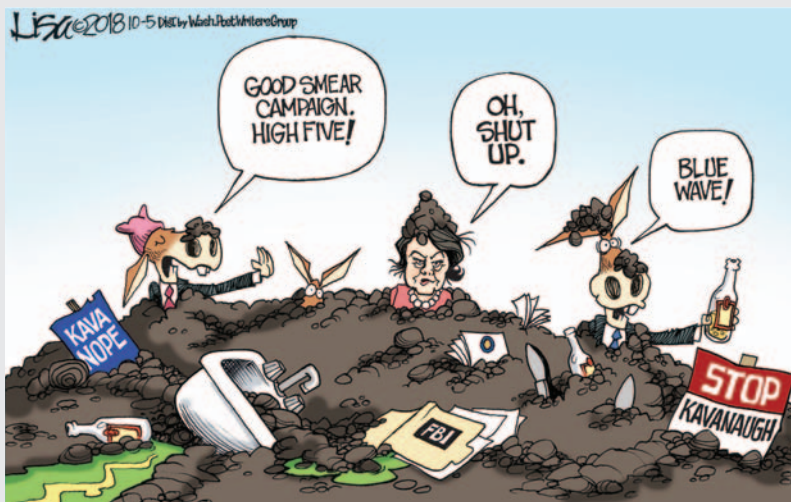
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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Non-native venomous spider found in state

OR OREGON CITY — The types of venomous spiders residing in Oregon have doubled.

State officials confirm that a brown widow spider, usually found in South Africa, Florida and Southern California, has recently been found living in Oregon City in northwestern Oregon.

It's not clear how it arrived or if there are more.

Tom Valente, of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, told The Oregonian/OregonLive that there's no reason to panic but residents should be cautious.

He said brown widows are sub-tropical, and that Oregon's cold weather will likely kill them.

Boy dies after wind tosses bounce pillow

NE LINCOLN — A 2-year-old Nebraska boy was killed and his sister was injured when wind tore a giant inflatable from its moorings and tossed it 30 feet into the air before depositing it, with the toddler wrapped up inside, more than 100 feet away, authorities said Friday.

The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office said Caleb Acuna suffered severe head trauma in his ordeal Wednesday evening at JK's Pumpkin Patch, just north of Lincoln. Caleb was taken off life support Thursday afternoon.

His 5-year-old sister, Arra, suffered a broken arm.

The siblings were playing on the bounce pillow — similar to a bounce house, but without any walls — when an estimated 59 mph wind gust tore it from its moorings.

Zoo: Baby rhino bites tip of man's finger

OH CINCINNATI — Officials at an Ohio zoo said a 1-year-old baby rhinoceros bit the tip of a man's finger during a behind-the-scenes tour at the facility.

Cincinnati Zoo spokeswoman Michelle Curley said the eastern black Rhino named Kendi nipped the man's right index finger during a visit to the zoo.

Curley said the man was treated for the minor injury and is expected to recover.

The zoo didn't release any additional information.

Alpacas hit, 1 killed by fleeing vehicle

FL JACKSONVILLE — The journey of 21 alpacas from New York to Florida was disturbed when a car fleeing Georgia authorities crossed the state line into Florida and hit the animals' trailer.

New outlets cited a Florida Highway Patrol report that said a police officer from Kingsland, Ga., tried to stop a car for speeding early Oct. 1. Troopers said the driver refused to pull over and entered an agriculture station in Florida, where it crashed into the back of the parked livestock trailer.

THE CENSUS

14K

The number of ring-necked pheasants that will be released at 24 public hunting areas in Ohio this fall to increase opportunities for hunters across the state. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources said its Division of Wildlife will release pheasants prior to the small-game weekends for youth hunters. Hunters who are 17 years old and younger can hunt statewide during the weekends of Oct. 20-21 and Oct. 27-28.



BAC TOTRONG, (BOWLING GREEN, Ky.) DAILY NEWS/AP

Forging ahead

Sam Stoner works on a tomahawk blade during Hammer In, an event celebrating the metal workers' trade, at the Kentucky Museum in Bowling Green, Ky., on Saturday.

Police found the driver in near-by woods.

A search of the car revealed stolen checks and several garbage bags with stolen mail.

One alpaca was killed in the crash. The others were loaded onto another trailer to continue to their destination.

Floating trash bin sucks up river refuse

VA NORFOLK — A floating trash bin is now sucking up refuse in a Virginia river. The Virginian-Pilot reported Oct. 1 that the new piece of technology is said to be the first of its kind along the East Coast.

It's called the Seabin, and it has been installed along the Elizabeth River in downtown Norfolk near where the Battleship Wisconsin is docked.

A company based in Chesapeake, Wartsila Defense Inc., donated the bin and plans to donate more by January.

The bin works similar to a swimming pool skimmer. Water and trash are pulled into a filtered bag.

Rare calico lobster caught off coast

ME SCARBOROUGH — A Maine lobsterman caught a rare calico lobster off the coast of Scarborough last week.

Anthony Belanger said he and his bosses have never seen a lobster like it in their decades in the business. The Kennebec Journal reported the lobster currently resides at Belanger's workplace, Scarborough Fish & Lobster.

Belanger said the owners aren't sure if they will sell the lobster or donate it to the University of New England.

According to the University of Maine's Lobster Institute, calico lobsters occur about once in every 30 million lobsters.

Zoo gets African black mamba snake

IN INDIANAPOLIS — An African snake that's considered one of the world's deadliest snakes will be slithering into the Indianapolis Zoo next year.

The zoo will add a black mamba and other exotic snakes to a new

snake exhibit set to open at its Deserts Dome on Memorial Day weekend 2019.

The highly venomous snake can grow up to 14 feet, and is considered one of the world's fastest and most venomous snakes.

The new snake exhibit will also feature two of Asia's largest snake species, reticulated and Burmese pythons, and several of Indiana's venomous snakes.

Officials disentangle bucks' antlers; 1 dies

MT KALISPELL — State wildlife officials in northwestern Montana disentangled the antlers of two bucks locked in a breeding season battle between Kalispell and Whitefish.

One of the bucks had died and wardens briefly tranquilized the other while they sawed an antler off the dead buck to free its foe.

Warden Bob Obst told The Daily Inter Lake he's seen bucks get their antlers locked up only twice in his 22 years on the job.

Obst said once the exhausted buck was freed it got up, jumped a fence and headed for the Flathead River.

Washington's hair among items on exhibit

NY TICONDEROGA — A display of Benedict Arnold's hair at Fort Ticonderoga earlier this year proved so popular that curators dug into the museum's vast collection to see what other 18th-century curiosities they could find.

Among the items they turned up were locks of George Washington's hair and a rib bone from a woman killed by British-allied American Indians during the Revolutionary War's 1777 Saratoga campaign.

Those artifacts, Arnold's hair and five other items comprise "Pieces of Eight: Curiosities from the Collection," a new exhibit running through April at the tourist attraction.

Curators said the rib bone came from Jane McCrea, who was engaged to a loyalist officer when she was killed near Saratoga. Her remains were disinterred twice in the 1800s. It's believed someone took the bone as a souvenir.

From wire reports

FACES

Dead man walking

Andrew Lincoln's acting run on 'The Walking Dead' is nearly over. Next up: Directing.

By JEFF MARTIN
Associated Press

Andrew Lincoln will no longer evade the arc of a knife, a bullet or a bloody baseball bat wrapped with razor wire on the Georgia set where AMC's "The Walking Dead" is filmed.

The show's ninth season, which premiered Monday night on AFN-Spectrum, will be the last for his character, sheriff's Deputy Rick Grimes, and Lincoln has wrapped his last scene.

Now he's hoping to direct an episode of the show, so he's "shadowing" one of the directors during filming near the small town of Senoia.

"I've always had a fascination with the language of film," he told The Associated Press. "And I'm a control freak. I have strong opinions aesthetically, and maybe it's time for me to own up to it and see if I can, you know, put my money where my mouth is."

The drama sometimes follows the story lines of a comic book series that debuted in 2003, but also veers from that narrative to create new tales. It's built around a cast of characters struggling to survive in a world that's fallen into chaos and become infested with zombies they call "walkers." The humans also break into factions and sometimes wage war.

As the show enters its final season with Lincoln's character, he speaks lovingly of the "less-is-more" aspect of the upcoming season.

"There's less gas, there's less guns, there's less food," he says. "But we've got more tension as a result, and thrills

and spills. If something goes wrong in this landscape that we inhabit now, then we're in serious trouble."

Lincoln says "The Walking Dead" has always been an ensemble show.

"The themes this season are absolutely what we set out to achieve in the first season," he said. "It's a story of hope, family and friendship. People with nothing in common realizing that they have everything in common."

AMC President Charlie Collier said "what started as the Rick Grimes story really became a story about a group of people helping each other survive and having each other's backs in the worst of conditions."

As Lincoln prepared to film his final episodes, he said he felt like he was watching a cruise ship slowly pulling away from him.

"On this cruise ship, there are the lights and the dancing and I can hear the clink of the glasses, but I'm sort of bobbing around in the shallows of the sea as it drifts away, you know, it continues and it continues in an amazing fashion."

Collier says that in Lincoln's character's absence, the story that will continue to drive the show is that of a group of people trying to survive.

"You'll see other risks," he says. "There's just so much more to tell."



Andrew Lincoln plays Rick Grimes on "The Walking Dead."

AMC

'A Star Is Born,' 'Venom' have big box-office debuts

Associated Press

In a weekend of perfect counterprogramming for Hollywood, the comic-book movie "Venom" shrugged off bad reviews to shatter the October box-office record with an \$80 million debut, while Bradley Cooper's "A Star Is Born" soared to \$41.3 million.

With \$174.5 million in tickets sold at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to ComScore, it was easily the best October weekend ever thanks to two very different films that both outperformed expectations.

"Venom" came in a critically panned, much-doubted foray to kick-start a Marvel expansion away from "Spider-Man." The "A Star Is Born" remake rode a wave of hype, Oscar buzz and acclaim for Cooper's directorial debut and Lady Gaga's first leading performance.

One was a very iffy proposition; the other a sure thing. Both worked big time.

"We knew we had a hit," said Warner Bros. distribution chief Jeffrey Goldstein of "A Star Is Born." "We also knew that every time people saw the movie, they felt it, they cried, they loved it. People just like the movie."

That was more in question for director Ruben Fleischer's "Venom," starring Tom Hardy as the antihero who first appeared in 2007's "Spider-Man 3." The film earned a dismal 32 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes. In "Venom," many expected another studio misfire with "cinematic universe" ambitions.

Yet audiences flocked to "Venom" in record numbers, giving it a B-plus CinemaScore. The previous best October opening was 2013's "Gravity" with \$55.7 million (not adjusted for inflation). "Venom," which cost about \$100 million to make (relatively modest for a superhero film), grossed a total of \$205.2 million globally.

With "A Star Is Born," which cost \$40 million to make, expected to play a large role in awards season, Goldstein said the film is sure to run through Christmas. The movie's soundtrack also reached No. 1 on iTunes.

Taylor Swift breaks political silence, backs Democrats

Associated Press

Music superstar Taylor Swift says she's voting for Tennessee's Democratic Senate candidate Phil Bredesen, breaking her long-standing refusal to discuss anything political.

Swift posted on Instagram Sunday evening acknowledging she's previously shied from voicing her political opinions. But she says several personal and public events over the past two years have prompted her to speak out.

Swift has faced criticism for not speaking about political issues despite having a global platform.

The poststar, who spent her later years in Tennessee — slammed Republican U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn in her lengthy post, writing the Republican candidate's voting record "terrifies me." Swift says she's voting for Bredesen for Senate and Democrat Jim Cooper for the House.

Swift didn't acknowledge Bredesen's recent endorsement of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, but said people may

never find a candidate or party with whom they agree completely on every issue.

Tina Turner says husband gave her a kidney for transplant

Tina Turner has revealed that she underwent a kidney transplant with an organ donated by her husband.

The 78-year-old singer says in an upcoming autobiography that she has suffered from kidney disease, and by 2016 her kidneys were at "20 percent and plunging rapidly."

She says her husband, Erwin Bach, "shocked me by saying that he wanted to give me one of his kidneys." Turner says she was "overwhelmed by the enormity of his offer."

Turner, whose hits include "Proud Mary" and "What's Love Got to do with It," married German music executive Bach in 2013 after a long relationship.

Extracts from "Tina Turner: My Love Story" were published Oct. 6 in the Daily Mail newspaper. The book will be published in Britain and North America later this month.

Scott Wilson, 'In Cold Blood' and 'Walking Dead' actor, dies

Scott Wilson, who played the murderer Richard Hickock in 1967's "In Cold Blood" and was a series regular on "The Walking Dead," has died. He was 76.

AMC, the show's network, announced Wilson's death Oct. 6. The network called Wilson's character on "The Walking Dead" "veterinarian Hershel Greene," "the emotional core of the show."

Wilson starred on the series from 2011 to 2014. His return for the upcoming season was announced just hours earlier on Oct. 6. Wilson already filmed his scenes for season nine.

Other news

■ Reality TV star Kim Kardashian West is suing a former security guard over an incident in Paris in which she was bound and robbed of jewelry that was worth millions of dollars. The News Journal reported Oct. 5 that West and an insurance company filed the suit in New Castle County Superior Court in Wilmington, Del. It alleges

negligence and misconduct and demands \$6.1 million.

■ Comedian Katt Williams has been arrested on suspicion of assaulting a hired driver during an argument about taking him and his dog from the Portland, Ore., airport to a performance in the city. Port of Portland police say the town car driver had swelling and cuts on his face. Williams, 47, has been charged with assault in the fourth degree.

■ Michael "The Situation" Sorrentino, whose abs became famous on the hit reality show "Jersey Shore," was sentenced Oct. 5 to eight months in prison for cheating on his taxes. A federal judge sentenced the star shortly after his brother, Marc Sorrentino, received a two-year sentence on a similar charge. Both brothers pleaded guilty in January. They were charged in 2014 with tax offenses related to nearly \$9 million in income.

■ Audrey Wells, who wrote the screenplay for the brand new feature film "The Hate U Give," died Oct. 4, the day before the film was released, after a five-year battle with cancer. She was 58. Wells also wrote and directed the 2003 romantic comedy "Under the Tuscan Sun."



Swift

SHIFTING GEARS



Photos courtesy of Nissan

Ultimate Altima | Redesigned 2019 Nissan is better in every way

By LARRY PRINTZ
Tribune News Service

MSANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Such has been made of the fact that many Americans now drive some form of light truck. Sales of SUVs, crossovers and pickups are closing in on 70 percent of U.S. new vehicle sales. Yes, we have become a nation of truck drivers. But that doesn't mean that cars no longer matter. They do, accounting for 6 million units a year in sales in the United States, of which one-third are midsize cars. That's 2 million units a year.

That is why Nissan redesigned the Altima for 2019 with an all-new platform and two new engines with all-wheel drive or front-wheel drive. Given that the Subaru Legacy is the only other all-wheel drive midsize sedan, Nissan has a huge selling advantage in Northern climes.

The \$1,350 AWD option is available on all models, which include S, SR, SV, SL and Platinum trims. However, it's offered only with the base engine, a direct injected 2.5-liter four-cylinder rated at 188 horsepower. Replacing the previous Altima's 270-horsepower 3.5-liter V-6 engine on upper-level SR and Platinum models is the VC-Turbo, the world's first production variable compression turbocharged engine. The 248-horsepower 2.0-liter turbocharged engine has been under development for two decades. Its trick? It continuously raises or

lowers the pistons' reach, changing from 8:1 for high performance to 14:1 for high fuel efficiency. But it's offered only with front-wheel drive, not all-wheel drive. Both engines mate to a continuously variable automatic transmission.

And it's safe, thanks to standard automatic emergency braking, intelligent forward collision warning and intelligent driver alertness. A Safety Shield 360 pack-

age is optional and adds automatic emergency braking with pedestrian detection, rear automatic braking, lane departure warning, blind spot warning, rear cross traffic alert and high beam assist.

On my recent drive in Santa Barbara, Calif., Nissan provided SR and Platinum models for testing.

Certainly, the new VC-T engine provides more thrills than its larger nonturbo sibling. Power off the line is strong, and care is needed to avoid squealing tires. The engine and transmission seem well-matched, with the transmission doing its best impersonation of a conventional transmission under hard acceleration and delivering a fun experience. However, it requires premium fuel while returning the lowest fuel economy of any Altima.

In contrast, the base engine uses regular unleaded gasoline and returns better fuel economy. But power is merely adequate; it's not nearly as entertaining. If you live in a hilly region, you'll find the 2.5-liter challenged by inclines, especially with the added weight of all-wheel drive. Nevertheless, the transmission feels more linear than before, lacking the rubber banding typically found in CVTs. Regardless of model, comfort and refinement are this car's hallmarks. It's agile and provides impressive grip, and a well-mannered chassis. But it's no sports sedan.

The polished demeanor can best be seen in the interior, where a large 8-inch infotainment touchscreen anchors the sleek,

contemporary instrument panel. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard, and the chip set used operates quickly. And techies take note: This might be the only car to offer two USB and two USB-C ports. Cabin trim quality varies from trim to trim, with some evidence that accountants have been at work, but overall quality is satisfying for the price. The cabin itself is roomy both front and rear thanks to a 2-inch longer wheelbase, an extra inch in width and overall length, although it's one inch lower.

It's wrapped in the finest interpretation yet of Nissan's current design language. While still aggressive, there's a refinement to its appearance that makes it perfect for midsize sedan duty, dancing on the edge of mild and wild. It's quite a sharp-looking ride.

But is it enough to make a crossover shopper give up their ride for an Altima? Most likely not; it's merely an improved version of what has come before.

Nevertheless, the 2019 Nissan Altima offers an impressively upscale appearance and feature list at a popular price. That was true of the first Altima in 1993, which looked much like a shrunken Infiniti 330. Six generations on, the 2019 Altima is better in every way. It's clearly Nissan's ultimate Altima.

Perhaps it should have been called the Altimate.

2019 Nissan Altima



Vehicle type: Midsize four-door sedan
Base prices: \$23,750-\$35,750
Powertrain: Double-overhead-cam 2.5-liter four-cylinder
Power/torque: 188 horsepower/180 pound-feet
EPA fuel economy rating: 25-28 mpg city/35-39 highway
Cargo capacity: 15.4 cubic feet

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Nobel in economics awarded to 2 Americans

By DAVID KEYTON
AND JIM HEINTZ
Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — Two Americans won the Nobel Prize in economics on Monday for studying a pressing issue facing the global economy: how to deal with pollution and climate change and how to foster the innovation needed to tackle such problems.

William Nordhaus, of Yale University, and Paul Romer, of New York University, were announced winners of the \$1.01 million prize by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Romer's work "explains how ideas are different to other goods and require specific conditions to thrive in a market," the academy said. Romer's work found that unregulated economies will produce technological change but insufficiently provide research and development. That can be addressed by government interventions such as R&D subsidies.

Nordhaus in the 1990s became the first person to create a model

that "describes the global interplay between the economy and the climate," the academy said. Working separately from Romer, he showed that

"the most efficient remedy for problems caused by greenhouse gases is a global scheme of universally imposed carbon taxes."

Carbon taxes are fees imposed on companies that burn carbon-based fuels such as coal and oil. Advocates see the taxes as encouraging companies to use less-polluting fuels.

"This is, for sure, a Nobel Prize about the big questions," University of Michigan economist Justin Wolfers said on Twitter.

Per Stromberg, head of the Nobel economics prize committee, said "it's about the long-run future of the world economy."



Romer



Nordhaus

"The first one is how do we keep on generating the new ideas, the new innovations, the new research that's so important to solve the problems

"The second is how do we deal with the negative effects of economic growth, which have to do with the emission of greenhouse gases leading to a warmer climate — which not just hurts the economy but risks the life of everyone on earth," Stromberg said.

The prize comes just a day after an international panel of scientists issued a report detailing how Earth's weather, health and ecosystems would be in better shape if the world's leaders could somehow limit future human-caused warming to just 0.9 degrees Fahrenheit from now, instead of the globally

agreed-upon goal of 1.8 degrees F.

Nordhaus has argued that climate change should be considered a "global public good," like public health and international trade, and regulated accordingly, but not through a command-and-control approach. Instead, by agreeing on a global price for burning carbon that reflects its whole cost, this primary cause of rising temperatures could be traded and taxed, putting market forces to work on the problem.

Many economists have since endorsed the concept of taxing carbon and using this financial lever to influence societal behavior. But adopting the regulatory frameworks on a global scale has been a complex challenge, and the world's political leaders are failing to meet it, the head of the United Nations said last month.

"Many people think that dealing with protecting the environment will be so costly and so hard that they just want to ignore the problem," Romer said by telephone to the Swedish academy.

"I hope the prize today could help everyone see that humans are capable of amazing accomplishments when we set about trying to do something."

The economics prize is the last of the Nobels to be announced this year. Last year's prize went to American Richard Thaler for studying how human irrationality affects economic theory.

The peace prize was awarded Friday to Denis Mukwege, of Congo, and Iraqi Nadia Murad for their work to draw attention to how sexual violence is used as a weapon of war.

EXCHANGE RATES

By DAVID KEYTON
AND JIM HEINTZ
Associated Press

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INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
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Federal funds market rate	2.18
3-month bill	2.17
30-year bond	3.39

Global execs cool on deals amid trade tensions

By PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

LONDON — Executives around the world are cooling to the idea of mergers and acquisitions in the face of rising trade tensions, notably between the U.S. and China, a leading adviser on international corporate deals said Monday.

In its half-yearly assessment of corporate mergers and acquisitions, or M&A, EY found that only 46 percent of executives are planning a takeover in the next 12 months. That's down 10 percentage points from a year ago and marks the lowest level in four years.

"Geopolitical, trade and tariff uncertainties have finally caused some dealmakers to hit the

pause button," said Steve Krousos, a global vice chair at EY. "Despite stronger than anticipated first-half earnings and the undeniable strategic imperative for deals, we can expect this year to finish with much weaker M&A than how it started."

EY highlighted the dispute between the U.S. and China and uncertainty over Britain's looming exit from the European Union as key reasons behind the decline in executives' interest in deals. The former has already led to an increase in tariffs, while Brexit could still yet, especially if Britain does not secure a deal with the EU over future relations ahead of next March's departure.

Higher tariffs have the potential to weigh on

global growth, especially if countries retaliate against each other in a vicious cycle.

In a separate report Monday, ING Bank said it expects trade growth to almost halve in 2018, to 2.6 percent, and to drop to 1.3 percent in 2019, the lowest level since the trade collapse of 2009. It said rising protectionism is one key reason behind the slowdown.

Though EY noted a decline in appetite for deals, it said the overall outlook remains positive, with 90 percent of executives expecting the global M&A market to improve in the next 12 months and a similar amount believing global economic growth prospects are improving.

"This is likely to be just a pause, not a complete stop," Krousos said.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

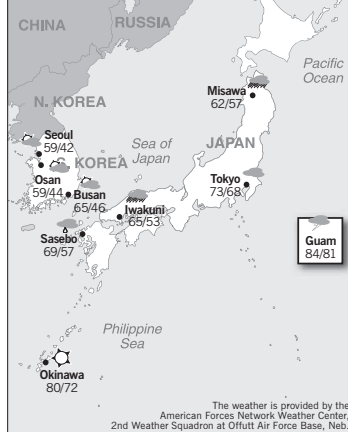
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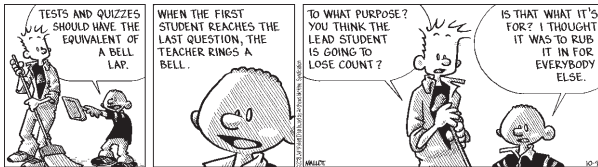
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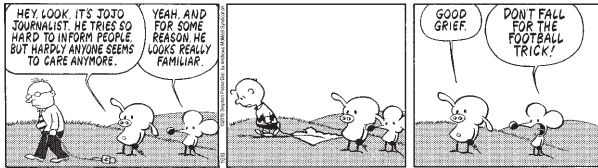
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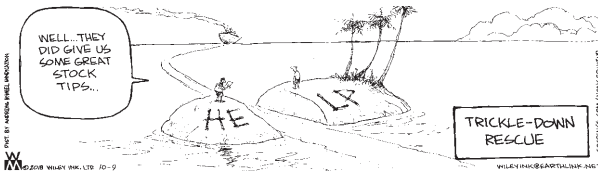
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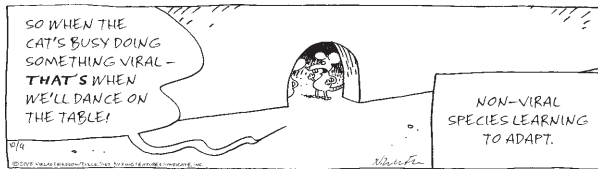
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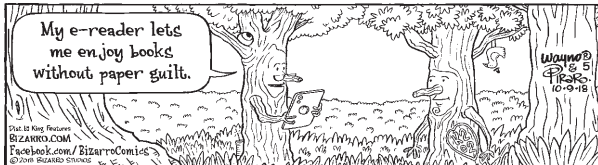
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Beetle Bailey



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23	24	25			26				27	28	29	
30					31				32			
33			34	35					36	37		
			38						39			
40	41	42			43				44	45	46	
47					48				49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

ACROSS

- 1 Corned beef recipe
- 5 Stetson, e.g.
- 8 Strike callers
- 12 New York canal
- 13 Discoverer's call
- 14 Actress Gilpin
- 15 Anger
- 16 "My Shot" Broadway show
- 18 Soaking spot
- 20 Condemns
- 21 Goal
- 22 Pod veggie
- 23 Shrimp's kin
- 26 "A Whole New World" Broadway show
- 30 Corn spike
- 31 Author Tan
- 32 Employ
- 33 "All That Jazz" Broadway show
- 36 Monastery VIP
- 38 Top card
- 39 Compete
- 40 Marble cake pattern
- 43 Bed cushions
- 47 "If I Loved You" Broadway show
- 49 "Got it"
- 50 Exam format
- 51 100%
- 52 Flair
- 53 Emmy-winning Daily

DOWN

- 4 Basil or thyme
- 2 La Scala solo
- 3 Sediment
- 4 Donkey sound
- 5 [Yawn]
- 6 Melville captain
- 7 Male cat
- 8 Digital transfer
- 9 "Fly — the Moon"
- 10 High school dance
- 11 Deadly septet
- 17 Concept
- 19 Can metal
- 22 Layer
- 23 Chest muscle
- 24 Fan's cry
- 25 "Exodus" hero
- 26 I love (Lat.) soundtrack
- 28 Equi-
- 29 Court divider
- 31 Bio stat
- 34 Singer/songwriter King
- 35 Rights org.
- 36 Be sick
- 37 Conviction
- 39 Country estate
- 40 Kilt wearer
- 41 Cautious
- 42 Persia, today
- 43 Soccer legend
- 44 Norway's capital
- 45 Withdraw gradually
- 46 Faxed
- 48 Perched

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	O	A	X	V	C	R	S	T	A	G
L	A	R	A	I	N	E	T	E	R	I
I	T	I	N	E	N	D	G	A	M	E
O	H	D	A	R	N	O	O	M	P	A
				D	O	N	G	O	P	T
E	N	D	U	S	E	R	S	I	A	M
L	E	O	A	S	A	I	R	N	R	A
F	O	G	S	E	N	D	A	N	G	E
				O	A	T	D	E	C	O
B	O	O	G	I	E	T	E	M	P	E
E	N	D	E	A	V	O	R	O	R	L
S	T	E	S	E	L	I	R	I	M	E
S	O	R	T	R	E	P	E	G	O	S

10-9

CRYPTOQUIP

W U Y M U Y K N X J T U I I Z R I
P H P U B B E M U H U P R Z G P W
G P U B Z K E . Z T W X W T K N K M Z H
U H K M W R U K P T W N X K M W
J N U H K .

Yesterday's Cryptquip: NEW KLEENEX PRODUCT THAT WAS EXTREMELY POPULAR WITH SICK PEOPLE FOR MANY MONTHS: FADDY TISSUE.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: K equals T


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Automotive 140

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AUTO RACING

Elliott thinking championship after Dover win

Hendrick Motorsports star earns automatic berth in next round of Cup playoffs

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — Chase Elliott had been burdened by lofty expectations that come as the son of a Hall of Fame driver and the replacement of a four-time NASCAR champion.

As the close calls and frustrating finishes mounted, and wins eluded him, the 22-year-old Elliott could feel the pressure tighten each time he slipped into the No. 9 Chevrolet.

But once Elliott raced to his first Cup win, the second victory wasn't far behind, and now the Hendrick Motorsports star

‘There isn’t any reason why we can’t make a run at this deal.’

Chase Elliott
NASCAR driver

pegged as NASCAR's next most popular driver is thinking championship.

“There isn’t any reason why we can’t make a run at this deal,” Elliott said. Elliott stayed off pit road during a late caution and avoided similar disasters that struck the Stewart-Haas Racing drivers to pull away and win in overtime Sunday

at Dover International Speedway. Elliott earned an automatic berth into the next round of the NASCAR Cup playoffs.

Eight races after his first win at Watkins Glen, Elliott was back in Victory Lane again — another needed dose of good news for NASCAR following the rousing success of the roval race last week at Charlotte.

Elliott bounded over the wall and high-fived Jeff Gordon, the driver he replaced in 2016, and shared a big hug with team owner Rick Hendrick. A year ago at Dover, Elliott coughed up the lead with two laps left to Kyle Busch, in what he called the most crushing defeat of his career.

He left that 0-for-70 in Cup.

Elliott rubbed his head and leaned against his car, crestfallen as he played the final laps in his mind. Jimmie Johnson walked over to offer some encouragement and let Elliott vent.

It was one big celebration on Sunday. “When he won the race at Watkins Glen, it was like the world was lifted off his shoulders,” Hendrick said.

Bill Elliott did not attend the race, but with more races like this one, it’s not hard



Nick Wass/AP

Chase Elliott poses in Victory Lane next to his car after he winning Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series race in Dover, Del.

to imagine son eventually eclipsing dad's mark of one Cup championship.

“I think this only elevates his game,” Gordon said.

Elliott's win means he can breathe a bit easier as the series shifts to treacherous Talladega, where anything can happen on the superspeedway. The top eight drivers after the next two races move on to the next round and Aric Almirola, Clint Bowyer, Kyle Larson and Alex Bowman are stuck below the cutoff with two races left in the round of 12.

“We’ve had so many opportunities and been so close and had the car to win and been in position and I don’t know, it just seems to not come through,” Almirola said.

Denny Hamlin was second, followed by

playoff driver Joey Logano. NASCAR playoff drivers took 10 of the top 15 spots.

Jimmie's ride: Hendrick said there could be an announcement in the next month for Johnson's new 2019 sponsor.

Lowe's, which had been on the hood for all seven championships, said this year it was leaving the sport and Hendrick had yet to find another sponsor.

“It’s really hard when you have someone that’s so successful but they’ve been tied to one brand for a long time,” Hendrick said.

Johnson's bid for a record eighth NASCAR Cup title ended last week when he was eliminated from the playoffs. His No. 48 Chevrolet was forced to the garage at Dover during the pace laps because of mechanical woes and he finished 36th.

Johnson, who holds the Dover record with 11 wins, was an early hit when he dropped off 12 kids' bikes at Martin Truex Jr.'s hauler as an apology of sorts for triggering a wreck last week at Charlotte that denied both drivers a shot at a win.

Big bet: Elliott had 12-1 odds in the first-ever race where legalized sports betting happened at the track.

Dover International Speedway opened its on-site betting kiosk this weekend and became the only track that allowed sports gambling on its property. NASCAR does not prohibit its drivers or team members from betting on the race.

NASCAR President Steve Phelps said the series is set to implement guidelines in the rulebook on sports betting in 2019.



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X
EXCHANGE

NEX

Vizcaino, Braves hold off Dodgers

Milwaukee						
Milky	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	0	0	1	2
Knebel	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	0	1
Soria	1	0	0	0	1	2
Burnes W1-0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Jeffress	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	0	1	0
Hader	$\frac{3}{2}$	0	0	0	0	1
Colorado						
Marquez L,0-1	5	7	2	2	1	5
Oberg	1	2	2	2	0	3
Ottavino	1	0	0	0	0	0
Oh	1	1	0	0	1	0
Davis	0	2	2	2	2	0
Rusin	1	0	0	0	1	0

W.Davis pitched to 4 batters in the 9th

WP-Oberg, T-3:14, A-49.658 (50.398).

NHL/SPORTS BRIEFS

NHL roundup

Rielly lifts Leafs in overtime

Associated Press

CHICAGO — After John Tavares went off and Auston Matthews and Patrick Kane staged a memorable duel, Morgan Rielly got the last word on a wild Sunday night.

Rielly scored 19 seconds into overtime, Tavares had three goals and the Toronto Maple Leafs spoiled Chicago's home opener with a 7-6 victory over the Blackhawks.

"Top to bottom we had contribution everywhere," Tavares said.

Matthews had two goals and two assists for Toronto in the opener of a four-game trip. Rielly also had two assists and Kasper Kapane finished with a goal and an assist, helping the Maple Leafs bounce back from Saturday night's 5-3 loss to Ottawa.

Garret Sparks, who is from the Chicago suburb of Elmhurst, made 25 saves to get the win in his first NHL game since 2016.

"I went up against my childhood heroes tonight and there's nothing cooler than that," the 25-year-old Sparks said.

Chicago was looking for its third 3-0 start since the 2012-13 season, but it was unable to clamp down on Toronto's high-scoring lines. Kane scored twice in the final two minutes of regulation, and defenseman Dominik Keitel and rookie center Jorjani Kapane each had three assists.

"It was a pretty crazy game," Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville said. "The quality of chances, the quantity of goals, the way it ended was a different level of unpredictability."

It was Tavares' first hat trick since he agreed to a \$77 million, seven-year contract with Toronto in July, choosing his hometown team over several other suitors in free agency. The contract ramped up expectations for the Leafs, and the talented center is already having an effect on his new franchise.

"[I] want to be as consistent as I can so I prepare myself and expect a lot of myself on a nightly basis, with and without the puck," Tavares said.

Hurricanes 8, Rangers 5: Warren Foegele had two goals and an assist, and Andrei Svechnikov got his first career goal to snap a tie midway through the third period, and he had Carolina rallied to beat New York.

Svechnikov, the No. 2 overall pick in June's draft, deflected Justin Faulk's shot in front of the net with 9:16 remaining to break a 5-5 tie and give the Hurricanes their first lead.

Kings 4, Red Wings 2: Alex Iafallo scored two goals and Ilya Kovalchuk had his first two NHL assists in nearly 5½ years, leading Los Angeles to its first victory of the season.

Captain Anze Kopitar and Paul LaDue also scored for the Kings.



KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/AP

Maple Leafs center John Tavares, left, celebrates with Mitchell Marner after scoring against the Blackhawks during the third period on Sunday in Chicago. Tavares had a hat trick.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division		GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	2	1	0	1	0	4	13	4
Montreal	2	1	0	1	0	3	7	4
Ottawa	2	1	0	1	0	4	13	4
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	0
Buffalo	1	0	1	0	0	2	4	7
Boston	1	0	1	0	0	2	4	7
Florida	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2
Detroit	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2

Metropolitan Division

Carolina	2	1	0	1	0	5	12	8
Washington	2	1	0	1	0	4	9	3
New Jersey	2	1	0	1	0	4	9	3
Philadelphia	2	1	0	1	0	4	9	3
Columbus	2	1	0	1	0	4	9	3
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	1	0	4	9	3
N.Y. Islanders	2	1	0	1	0	4	9	3
N.Y. Rangers	3	0	3	0	0	0	6	14

Western Conference

Central Division		GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	3	2	0	1	0	5	15	14
Dallas	5	3	1	1	0	7	15	14
Nashville	2	2	0	0	0	4	7	5
Arizona	2	2	0	0	0	4	7	5
Winnipeg	2	2	0	0	0	4	7	5
St. Louis	2	2	0	0	0	4	7	5
Minnesota	2	2	0	0	0	4	7	5

Pacific Division		GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	1	0	1	0	0	4	6	2
Los Angeles	2	1	0	1	0	3	6	2
Vegas	2	1	0	1	0	3	6	2
San Jose	2	1	0	1	0	3	6	2
Calgary	2	1	0	1	0	3	6	2
Edmonton	2	1	0	1	0	3	6	2
Arizona	2	1	0	1	0	3	6	2

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's games

New Jersey 5, Edmonton 2	1
Colorado 5, Winnipeg 1	1
Montreal 5, Pittsburgh 1	1
Buffalo 3, N.Y. Rangers 1	1
Ottawa 5, Toronto 3	1
Tampa Bay 2, Florida 1	1
Nashville 4, N.Y. Islanders 3	1
Vegas 2, Minnesota 1	1
Chicago 5, St. Louis 4	1
Colorado 5, Philadelphia 2	1
Anaheim 1, Arizona 0	1
Calgary 7, Vancouver 4	1

Sunday's games

San Jose 5, N.Y. Rangers 5	1
Toronto 7, Chicago 6	1
Los Angeles 7, Detroit 2	1
Monday's games	1
Vegas at Boston	1
Vegas at Buffalo	1
Detroit at Anaheim	1

Tuesday's games

Vancouver at Carolina	1
San Jose at Philadelphia	1
Colorado at Columbus	1
Calgary at Nashville	1
Los Angeles at Winnipeg	1
Toronto at Dallas	1

Wednesday's games

Philadelphia at Ottawa	1
San Jose at Washington	1
Arizona at Anaheim	1

Calendar

2018

Jan. 1 — Winter Classic, Boston at Chicago, Notre Dame Stadium, South Bend, Ind.
Jan. 25 — All-Star Skills Competition, San Jose, Calif.
Jan. 26 — All-Star Game, San Jose, Calif.

Briefly

Suns dump GM as opener approaches

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Phoenix Suns have fired general manager Ryan McDonough barely a week before the season begins.

James Jones and Trevor Burke will share the GM duties on an interim basis for the Suns. Jones is the team's vice president of basketball operations and Burke was assistant GM under McDonough, who had been in Phoenix since 2013 and was under contract through 2020.

Suns owner Robert Sarver said Monday he made the decision to fire McDonough "after much thought and a long evaluation of our basketball operations."

The Suns took DeAndre Ayton with the No. 1 overall pick in this year's draft and gave Devin Booker a \$158 million extension during the offseason. Phoenix has had four straight losing seasons and no playoff berths since 2010.

Sooners fire defensive coordinator after loss

Oklahoma fired defensive coordinator Mike Stoops on Monday after the Sooners struggled to stop Texas during their first loss of the season.

Ruffin McNeill, the assistant head coach and defensive tackles coach, will be the defensive coordinator for the rest of the season.

The No. 11 Sooners (5-1) lost 48-45 on Saturday, allowing 501 yards to the Longhorns in Dallas. "More of a gut feeling that this was the appropriate response right now, that we, more than anything, needed a different voice in that room," Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley said during a conference call.

McNeill was defensive coordinator at UNLV from 1997 to 1998, and at Fresno State in 1999. He later served in that same role with Texas Tech from 2008 to 2009 before taking over as head coach at East Carolina from 2010 to 2015.

Stoops had been defensive coordinator since 2012, when his brother, former Sooners coach Bob Stoops, hired him.

Panthers' Luongo out with sprained knee

SUNRISE, Fla. — Florida Panthers goaltender Roberto Luongo will miss two to four weeks with a sprained medial collateral ligament in his right knee.

Coach Bob Boughner announced the injury Monday, adding Luongo will not need surgery. The Panthers played Luongo on injured reserve Sunday after he left their season opener Saturday night.

Luongo started 33 games for Florida last season and went 18-

11-2 with a 2.47 goals-against average and .929 save percentage. He missed more than two months with a groin injury last season.

The 39-year-old is signed through the 2021-22 season at a salary cap hit of \$5.3 million.

In other NHL news:

■ **Flyers winger James Van Riemsdyk** is out five to six weeks with a lower-body injury. He was hit with a shot from Avalanche defenseman Mark Barberio during the first period of Philadelphia's game at Colorado on Saturday.

■ **Van Riemsdyk** was playing just his second game back with the Flyers after they signed him to a \$35 million, five-year contract July 1. He had an assist in a season-opening victory at Vegas last week.

■ **Columbus Blue Jackets** forward Brandon Dubinsky is expected to miss four to six weeks with a strained oblique muscle.

US women shut out Panama in qualifier

CARY, N.C. — The United States used a radically different lineup to get the same dominating results.

Carli Lloyd scored three goals and the United States beat Panama 5-0 on Sunday in the group stage of the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying tournament.

Christine Press added a goal and two assists for the U.S. team, which led 4-0 at halftime.

The United States' starting lineup was different by nine players from the team that began the team's 6-0 tournament-opening win over Mexico on Thursday. Only defender Abby Dahlkemper and midfielder Julie Ertz started again, with star forwards Alex Morgan and Megan Rapinoe among those absent from the starting 11.

Tway earns first victory on PGA Tour

NAPA, Calif. — Kevin Tway made a 10-foot birdie putt on the third hole of a playoff Sunday to win the season's first PGA Tour Open for his first PGA Tour title.

The son of eight-time PGA Tour winner Bob Tway, the 30-year-old former Oklahoma State player beat Ryan Moore on the par-4 10th after Brandt Snedeker dropped out on his first extra trip down the par-5 18th.

After strong wind died down in the late afternoon on Silverado's tree-lined North Course, Tway birdied the final two holes in regulation for a 1-under 71, then birdied all three holes in the playoff.

Moore birdied three of the last four in a 67.

NFL

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	3	2	0	.600	133	108
Miami	3	2	0	.600	99	117
Buffalo	2	3	0	.400	63	118
N.Y. Jets	2	3	0	.400	123	105
Tennessee	3	2	0	.600	87	86
Jacksonville	3	2	0	.600	102	86
Houston	3	2	0	.600	115	124
Indianapolis	1	4	0	.200	118	138
Cincinnati	4	1	0	.800	153	130
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	132	77
Cleveland	2	2	1	.500	114	113
Pittsburgh	2	2	1	.500	143	133
Kansas City	5	0	0	1.000	175	129
L.A. Chargers	3	2	0	.600	137	130
Denver	3	2	0	.600	100	131
Oakland	1	4	0	.200	107	149

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	2	1	0	.667	64	44
Carolina	2	3	0	.400	83	96
Philadelphia	2	3	0	.400	103	104
N.Y. Giants	1	4	0	.200	104	128
New Orleans	3	1	0	.750	137	121
Carolina	3	1	0	.750	104	91
Tampa Bay	2	2	0	.500	112	139
Atlanta	1	4	0	.200	133	163
Chicago	3	1	0	.750	111	65
Seattle	2	2	0	.500	113	131
Green Bay	2	2	0	.500	115	114
Detroit	2	2	0	.500	125	137
L.A. Rams	5	0	0	1.000	173	98
Seattle	3	2	0	.600	116	114
Arizona	1	4	0	.200	65	112
San Francisco	1	4	0	.200	118	146

Thursday's games

Sunday's games

Buffalo 13, Tennessee 12
Dallas 27, Miami 17
Pittsburgh 41, Atlanta 17
N.Y. Jets 34, Denver 16
Carolina 33, N.Y. Giants 31
Detroit 21, Green Bay 23
Kansas City 20, Jacksonville 14
Cleveland 12, Baltimore 9, OT
L.A. Chargers 26, Oakland 10
Minnesota 23, Philadelphia 21
L.A. Rams 35, Seattle 31
Arizona 28, San Francisco 18
Houston 19, Dallas 16, OT

Monday's games

Open: Tampa Bay, Chicago

Philadelphia at New Orleans

Thursday, Oct. 11

Washington at N.Y. Giants

Sunday, Oct. 14

Seattle vs Oakland at London

Chicago at Miami

Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets

Buffalo at Houston

Tampa Bay at Atlanta

St. Louis at Cincinnati

Arizona at Minnesota

L.A. Chargers at Cleveland

Carolina at Washington

L.A. Rams at Denver

Jacksonville at Dallas

Baltimore at Tennessee

Kansas City at New England

Open: Detroit, New Orleans

Monday, Oct. 15

San Francisco at Green Bay

Bills beat Titans on FG as time expires

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Safety Jordan Poyer and the Buffalo Bills couldn't care less about style points.

After being on the losing end of some lopsided decisions, an offensively challenged, field-goal-dominated win over Tennessee is all that mattered.

"Two-and-three is a lot better than 1-4," Poyer said, referring to the Bills record. "It's never ugly when you win."

The Titans crossed midfield four times, with each drive ending with Ryan Succop hitting field goals.

"Not very good. Yeah, I mean we left one out today," quarterback Marcus Mariota said. "If you're not ready to play, it doesn't matter who you're playing."

Bills, Titans 12

Tennessee	3	3	0	6-12
Buffalo	7	0	3	3-13
Buf—Allen 14 run (Hauschka kick), 9:03				

First Quarter

Ten—FG Succop 25, 1:35.

Second Quarter

Ten—FG Succop 54, 2:00.

Third Quarter

Buf—FG Hauschka 40, 1:59.

Fourth Quarter

Ten—FG Succop 59, 10:30.

Buf—FG Hauschka 50, 4:43.

A—68, 10:02.

First downs

Ten 227 Bills 16

Total Net Yards 25-100 43-144

Rushes-yards 121-79 239-188

Passing 121-79 239-188

Punt Returns 2-3 1-8

Kickoff Returns 1-3 1-27

Interceptions Ret. 1-7 10-20

Comp-Att-Int 14-26-1 10-10-1

Sacked-Yards Lost 2-3 1-3

Punts 2-53-0 4-3-8

Fumbles-Lost 2-2 0-0

Penalties-Yards 5-40 3-39

Time of Possession 25:11 33:49

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Tennessee, Henry 11, 56

Drewis 12-34, Mariota 2-10, Buffalo, McCoy 24-85, Ivory 14-43, Allen 4-19, McCloud 1-minus 3.

PASSING—Tennessee, Mariota 14-26-12, Buffalo, Allen 10-19-18, 2, McCloud 1-minus 3.

RECEIVING—Tennessee, C Davis 4-49, Taylor 3-30, Sharpe 3-30, Drewis 3-14, Jennings 1-6, Buffalo, Zions 3-20, McCoy 2-23, Croom 2-9, Clay 1-12, Benjamin 1-11, McCloud 1-17.



DAVID RICHAH/AP

Browns players celebrate after they defeated the Ravens in overtime on Sunday in Cleveland.

Mayfield, Browns look legit in thrilling OT win

CLEVELAND — With their latest edge-of-your-seat thriller, the Cleveland Browns' days as a laughingstock appear over.

And with a rookie star leading them, they are one of the NFL's best feel-good stories this season. Baker Mayfield displayed some of the late magic he performed routinely for Oklahoma and Greg Joseph lined a 37-yard field goal that may have been deflected through the uprights with two seconds left in overtime to give Cleveland its second win, over the Baltimore Ravens.

By beating one of the AFC's perennial playoff teams, the Browns showed more evidence that they're on the rise.

"There is just something about this young man," Browns coach Hue Jackson said of Mayfield. "He has a feel to him. He does not blink at situations or opportunities."

Browns 12, Ravens 9 (OT)

Baltimore	3	0	3	0-9
Cleveland	2	6	0	3-12
Buf—FG Tucker 44, 8:37.				

First Quarter

Clk—Higgins 19 pass from Mayfield (kick failed), 24:0.

Second Quarter

Clk—FG Joseph 35, 7:29.

Third Quarter

Buf—FG Tucker 25, 3:30.

Fourth Quarter

Buf—FG Tucker 32, 3:22.

Overtime

Clk—FG Joseph 37, :02.

A—67, 4:31.

First downs

Buf 25 Bal 29 Cle 28

Total Net Yards 25-116 410

Rushes-yards 25-116 28-130

Passing 25-116 28-130

Punt Returns 0-0 0-0

Kickoff Returns 0-0 0-0

Interceptions Ret. 0-0 25-41

Comp-Att-Int 29-57-1 25-41-1

Sacked-Yards Lost 2-4 5-38

Punts 8-45-8 9-50-2

Fumbles-Lost 2-1 1-0

Penalties-Yards 4-41 10-66

Time of Possession 33:42 36:16

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Baltimore, A Collins 12-59, Allen 8-34, Flacco 2-13, Jackson 3-10, Mayfield 2-4, Hyde 17-63, Johnson 5-35, Mayfield 2-23, Chubb 3-2, Streeter 1-minus 11.

PASSING—Baltimore, Flacco 29-56-1, 298, Jackson 9-10-0, Cleveland, Mayfield 25-43-342.

RECEIVING—Baltimore, Crabtree 6-66, Allen 6-44, Sneed 5-55, Brown 4-58, Williams 2-6, Moore 1-20, Allen 3-14, Boyle 1-10, Hurnst 1-7, Turner 1-4, Collins 1-2, Clemons 1-1, Noku 6-69, Landry 5-69, Higgins 3-66, Williams 3-61, Callaway 3-22, Hyde 2-14, Delve 1-26, Felix 1-8, Johnson 1-1.

MISSSED FIELD GOALS—Cleveland, Joseph 55.

Texans win again in OT after Cowboys punt

HOUSTON — Facing a big decision in overtime, Cowboys coach Jason Garrett put his trust in the defense.

On fourth-and-1 on the Texans' 42-yard line with less than six minutes remaining in overtime, Garrett chose to punt.

"We just felt like at that point in the game, the way our defense was playing, the idea was to pin them down there," Garrett said.

Four plays later, Houston receiver DeAndre Hopkins had a 49-yard catch-and-run that set up a 36-yard field goal.

Texans defensive end J.J. Watt commiserated with Garrett, recalling the heat Colts coach Frank Reich took for going for it in a similar situation in an overtime loss to Houston last week.

"If you look at last week, he goes for it on fourth down and gets crushed," Watt said. "Now, this week, they punted on fourth down, and I'm sure people are going to ask why he did that."

Texans 16, Cowboys 13 (OT)

Dallas	6	0	7	3-19
Houston	0	10	3	3-19
Dal—FG Maher 27, 10:03.				

First Quarter

Dal—FG Maher 27, 10:03.

Second Quarter

Hou—Cowled 1 pass from Watson (Fairbairn kick), 13:40.

Third Quarter

Hou—FG Fairbairn 20, 6:00.

Fourth Quarter

Dal—Hurns 3 pass from Prescott (Maher kick), 11:52.

Hou—FG Fairbairn 21, 5:02.

Hou—FG Fairbairn 20, 5:31.

Dal—FG Maher 48, 5:39.

Overtime

Hou—FG Maher 36, 1:50.

A—72, 0:08.

First downs

Dal 29 Hou 42

Total Net Yards 252 462

Rushes-yards 29-98 31-88

Passing 29-98 31-88

Punt Returns 2-22 2-29

Kickoff Returns 0-0 0-0

Interceptions Ret. 1-15 2-17

Comp-Att-Int 18-29-2 33-44-1

Sacked-Yards Lost 2-14 1-1

Punts 5-44-0 3-53-3

Fumbles-Lost 0-0 2-1

Penalties-Yards 7-72 5-25

Time of Possession 31:52 36:38

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Dallas, Elliott 20-54, Prescott 6-34, R Smith 2-10, Houston, Blue 20-46, Watson 10-40, Couture 1-2.

PASSING—Dallas, Prescott 18-29-2, 206, Houston, Watson 33-44-1, 375.

RECEIVING—Dallas, Amari Cooper 3-55, Thomas 1-11, Akins 1-9, Swain 3-55, Thomas 1-11, Austin 1-44, Gathers 1-32, Jarwin 1-11, Beasley 1-8, Gallup 1-6, Hurns 1-3, Houston, Hurns 9-12, Blue 8-73, Griffin 6-65, Couture 6-51, Fuller 2-15, Thomas 1-11, Akins 1-9.

MISSSED FIELD GOALS—Houston, Fairbairn 48.

Rivers throws for 2 TDs as Chargers top Raiders

CARSON, Calif. — The Los Angeles Chargers' offense was stuck in neutral for the first 25 minutes against the Oakland Raiders. A broken play provided the needed spark.

"The game was tied 3-3 until Austin Ekeler took Philip Rivers' swing pass and turned into a 44-yard touchdown. That was part of 19 straight points by the Chargers en route to their victory."

"We were doing OK. We weren't playing great but that kind of sparked it," said Rivers, who threw for 339 yards and two touchdowns. "We got another stop and then punched it in. I felt then we were in control the rest of the way."

Rivers bubbled the shotgun snap, but quickly corralled it and got it to Ekeler. The second-year running back eluded two Raiders at the 40 and then got a good block from Keenan Allen up the left sideline to score his third touchdown of the season.

Chargers 26, Raiders 10

Oakland	0	14	12	0-19
L.A. Chargers	3	14	3	6-26
LAC—FG Sturgis 40, 11:08.				

First Quarter

LAC—FG Sturgis 40, 11:08.

Second Quarter

Oak—FG McCrane 24, 13:23.

LAC—Ekeler 44 pass from Rivers (Sturgis kick), 0:40.

OAC—Gordon 1 run (Sturgis kick), 1:39.

Third Quarter

LAC—FG Sturgis 30, 6:05.

Fourth Quarter

Oak—J-Nelson 13 pass from Carr (McCrane kick), 5:11.

A—25, 3:52.

First downs

Oak 14 LAC 19

Total Net Yards 289 412

Rushes-yards 31-141 31-79

Passing 289 412

Punt Returns 1-2 4-35

Kickoff Returns 2-44 2-51

Interceptions Ret. 0-0 1-8

Comp-Att-Int 24-33-1 22-37-0

Sacked-Yards Lost 3-20 1-6

Punts 4-49-3 3-43-0

Fumbles-Lost 0-0 0-0

Penalties-Yards 7-55 9

NFL



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown gets past Falcons' Montae Kazez and Robert Alford for a touchdown in the second half.

Lions take advantage of mistakes, top Packers

Detroit—The Detroit Lions have beaten Aaron Rodgers- and Tom Brady-led teams this season. And they still have a losing record.

Detroit has provided glimpses of its potential, beating the Packers in its first home game since dominating New England.

Matthew Stafford threw two touchdowns and LeGarrette Blount ran for two scores, and Detroit (2-3) earned a win it desperately needed under first-year coach Matt Patricia, going into its bye week.

Green Bay (2-2-1) was doomed because veteran Mason Crosby had the worst game of his life and two-time NFL MVP Aaron Rodgers lost two fumbles for just the third time in his 14-year career.

"We just couldn't overcome all the things we did wrong," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "We did some good things in the second half, but you can't dig yourself that kind of hole."

Crosby missed a career-high four field goals and failed to make an extra point to boot.

"I look back and I'm thinking, in my childhood, in high school, this is definitely one of the worst ones," Crosby said.

Lions 31, Packers 23

Green Bay 0 0 14 9 2-31
Detroit 14 10 0 7-31

Det.—Blount 1 run (Prater kick), 1:00.

Det.—Blount 1 run (Prater kick), 1:36.

Second Quarter

Det.—FG Prater 3, 14:48.

Det.—M.Jones 8 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 15.

Third Quarter

GB—Valdes-Scantling 3 pass from Rodgers (J.Williams pass from Rodgers), 9:40.

GB—Kendricks 1 pass from Rodgers (pass failed), 1:14.

Fourth Quarter

Det.—Golladay 5 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 12:55.

Det.—M.Jones 12 pass from Rodgers (kick failed), 9:01.

GB—FG M.Crosby 41, 0:2.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Green Bay: A.Jones 7-40, J.Williams 3-33, Montgomery 4-15, Rodgers 2-10, Blount 12-70, Blount 12-72, Rickard 3-3, Stafford 1 (minus 1).

PASSING—Green Bay: Rodgers 32-52-0-442, Detroit: Stafford 14-26-3-183.

RECEIVING—Green Bay: D.Adams 9-140, Valdes-Scantling 7-68, Graham 6-76, St. Brown 3-89, A.Jones 2-19, J.Williams 1-19, Kendricks 2-8, Montgomery 1-19.

DETROIT: Tate 5-42, Golladay 4-98, Rickard 2-20, Johnson 2-15, Jones 1-8.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—Green Bay: M.Crosby 41, M.Crosby 42, M.Crosby 38, M.Crosby 56. Detroit: Prater 55.

Fast start leads Cards past 49ers for first win

SANTA CLARA, Calif.—Josh Rosen got word a couple of days before the game that the Cardinals would take a deep strike on the opening play in hopes of waking up a struggling offense.

It couldn't have worked any better.

Rosen threw a 75-yard touchdown pass to fellow rookie Christian Kirk on Arizona's opening snap and the Cardinals then turned the game over to their opportunistic defense.

"We were just trying to get a spark in any way possible and just try to get our offense going," Rosen said.

The Cardinals (1-4) gained just 145 yards the rest of the game but it didn't matter because the defense took the ball away from the 49ers five times, including a 23-yard fumble return for a touchdown.

Cardinals 28, 49ers 18

Arizona 7 7 0 14-28
Santa Clara 0 0 12-18

First Quarter

SF—Breida 5 pass from Beathard (narrow field), 9:49.

ARI—Kirk 75 pass from Rosen (Dawson kick), 9:39.

Second Quarter

ARI—Johnson 2 run (Dawson kick), 11:08.

Fourth Quarter

SF—Taylor 4 pass from Beathard (pass failed), 6:51.

ARI—Bynes 23 fumble return (Dawson kick), 4:33.

ARI—Johnson 6 run (Dawson kick), 3:21.

SF—Beathard 1 run (pass failed), 1:29.

A—GB, 3:37.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

First downs 20 33

Total Net Yards 220 447

Rushes-yards 22-56 34-147

Passing 164 300

Interceptions Ret. 0 2-61

Kickoff Returns 0 0

Comp-Att-Int 10-22-0 34-52-0

Sacked-Yards Lost 6-49 4-43

Fumbles-Lost 1-0 4-43

Penalties-Yards 6-46 9-65

Time of Possession 19:48 40:12

RUSHING—Arizona: Johnson 18-55, Kirk 1-5, Edmonds 1 (minus 1), Moser 3 (minus 3), **Santa Clara:** Morris 18-61, Breida 8-56, Johnson 1-12, Rooster 5-11, **PASSING—Arizona:** Rosen 10-25-0-170, **Santa Clara:** Beathard 34-54-2-349, **RECEIVING—Arizona:** Kirk 3-85, Fitzpatrick 2-35, Williams 2-23, Johnson 2-16, **GREEN BAY:** A.Jones 7-40, J.Williams 3-33, Montgomery 4-15, Rodgers 2-10, Blount 12-70, Blount 12-72, Rickard 3-3, Stafford 1 (minus 1).

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Crowell, big-play Jets romp past Broncos

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.—Isaiah Crowell ran all over the Denver Broncos' suddenly leaky defense — and kept his touchdown celebration low-key this time.

The New York running back ran for a franchise-record 219 yards, including a 77-yard touchdown, and Sam Darnold threw two TD passes to Robby Anderson, including a 76-yarder, to help the big-play Jets snap a three-game skid.

"It means a lot to me," Crowell said. "I've got to give all the credit to my O-line. I can't really take the credit. Really, it was all them. I mean, the holes were open. Anybody could've run through them. It just happened to be me."

Crowell needed just 15 carries to break the team record of 210 yards rushing set by Thomas Jones in 2009 against Buffalo.

Jets 34, Broncos 16

Denver 9 7 0 21-34
New York 0 0 13-16

First Quarter

Den.—Sutton 8 pass from Keenum (McManus kick), 9:13.

Second Quarter

NYJ.—Crowell 77 run (Myers kick), 13:47.

NYJ.—Randy Anderson 76 pass from Darnold (Myers kick), 10:46.

Den.—FG McManus 30, 3:58.

NYJ.—Randy Anderson 35 pass from Darnold (Myers kick), 1:15.

Third Quarter

NFL

Perfect Rams put to test in Seattle

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — The way the schedule fell for the Los Angeles Rams gave them every opportunity to be perfect through the first quarter of the season.

The real test for the Rams started on Sunday. They passed by overcoming more adversity than they could have expected.

“The toughness and the resolve of this football team was certainly tested today and guys delivered in a big way,” Rams coach Sean McVay said.

The Rams escaped from Seattle with a 33-31 win over the Seahawks on Sunday that kept Los Angeles as one of two unbeaten teams in the league. Los Angeles moved to 5-0 by leaning heavily on Todd Gurley and Jared Goff, making a key defensive stand in the fourth quarter and a gutsy fourth-down call to clinch the victory.

It was the kind of victory the Rams needed. They were down two of their top offensive stars after Brandon Cooks and Cooper Kupp suffered concussions. They trailed in the fourth quarter and watched Goff respond. And they prevailed in a venue that's been exceedingly difficult for road teams in recent years.

“You need to know when these games come around, can you finish. That's what we did today,” Gurley said. “Tough environment. Doesn't matter which team it is. You've just got to be able to

Rams 33, Seahawks 31					
L.A. Rams	7	10	7	9	33
Seattle	7	10	14	0	31
First Quarter					
Sea—M.Davis 6 run (Janikowski kick), 4:30.					
La—Gurley 2 run (Santos kick), 2:00.					
Second Quarter					
La—FG Santos 19, 11:13.					
Sea—Lockett 39 pass from Ru.Wilson (Janikowski kick), 9:11.					
La—Kupp 6 pass from Goff (Santos kick), 6:02.					
Sea—FG Janikowski 52, 1:55.					
Third Quarter					
Sea—Moore 3 pass from Ru.Wilson (Janikowski kick), 10:34.					
La—Gurley 2 run (Santos kick), 5:04.					
Sea—Moore 30 pass from Ru.Wilson (Janikowski kick), 1:35.					
Fourth Quarter					
La—Gurley 5 run (kick failed), 14:54.					
La—FG Santos 39, 6:05.					
A—68,893.					

	La	Sea
First downs	30	20
Total Net Yards	468	373
Rushing-yards	30-155	32-190
Passing	213	183
Punt Returns	1-11	1-10
Sacked-Yards Lost	6-128	4-95
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-26
Comp-Att-Int	23-32	13-21-0
Fumbles-Lost	1-8	2-15
Punts	1-38.0	4-34.5
Penalties-Yards	7-45	9-90
Time of Possession	7:45	30:50

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
RUSHING —Los Angeles, Gurley 22-77, Woods 2-53, Goff 5-19, Heynolds 1-10, Seattle, Carson 19-116, M.Davis 12-68, Lockett 1-6.	
PASSING —Los Angeles, Goff 23-32-2, Seattle, Ru.Wilson 12-21-0-198.	
RECEIVING —Los Angeles, Kupp 6-90, Woods 5-92, Gurley 4-36, Everett 3-24, Heynolds 2-39, Hughes 2-26, Rodge 1-14, Seattle, Lockett 3-98, Vannett 3-43, Carson 3-28, M.Davis 2-7, Carson 1-11, Baldwin 1-1.	

close out those close games.”

Gurley rushed for three touchdowns, despite being held to only 77 yards rushing. He's got seven total TDs in the past two games against Seattle, and even with Kupp and Cooks missing the entire second half, the Rams were



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Rams running back Todd Gurley, right, gets past Seahawks free safety Tedric Thompson, left, to score a touchdown during the first half Sunday in Seattle. The Rams won 33-31 to improve to 5-0.

still able to put up 468 total yards and average 7.4 yards per play against a Seattle defense that, for the most part, played well.

For all the big yards the Rams racked up, it was the 2 yards Goff got on fourth-and-1 with 1:39 left that sealed the victory, as he plunged forward to convert the risky call by McVay. For some longtime Rams, winning again in Seattle is a sweet feeling.

“This just continues the rivalry,” Rams guard Rodger Saffold III said. “A lot of these guys weren't here, but I remember the days when Golden Tate used to taunt us before he got to the end zone. I remember the close games in the Edward Jones Dome. You

could say that sways my decision about what I think about this team, but at the end of the day we knew it was going to be a tough, physical game.”

Here's what else to know from the Rams third win in the past four seasons in Seattle:

Seattle's chance: The Seahawks were noticeably upset about a key holding call against guard D.J. Fluker late in the fourth quarter that knocked Seattle from field goal range and eventually led to a punt. The holding call put Seattle in second-and-23 at the Rams 45 and after a pair of incomplete passes, the Seahawks were forced to punt.

While some Seattle player

claimed it wasn't a penalty, Seattle coach Pete Carroll was particularly miffed about the call.

“I haven't seen the play, there's a lot of plays in that game that probably could have warranted a penalty throw and it happened on that play right then,” Carroll said. “It's unfortunate.”

Cairo's redemption: New Rams kicker Cairo Santos was in line to get blame. He missed an extra point early in the fourth quarter that left Los Angeles facing a 31-30 deficit. But he came back later in the fourth and hit a 39-yard field goal for what proved to be the winning points.

Panthers 33, Giants 31

New York	3	10	15	21
Carolina	7	13	0	13
First Quarter				
NYG—F.G. Rosas 42, 7:24.				
Car—Samuel 25 pass from Newton (Gano kick), 4:38.				
Second Quarter				
Car—Jones 0 fumble return (Gano Kick), 14:06.				
Car—F.G. Gano 47, 8:44.				
NYG—Barkley 57 pass from Beckham (Rosas kick), 6:57.				
Car—F.G. Gano 47, 2:36.				
NYG—F.G. Rosas 53, 2:20.				
Third Quarter				
NYG—F.G. Rosas 36, 7:34.				
Fourth Quarter				
Car—McCarthy 18 pass from Newton (Gano Kick), 11:21.				
NYG—Beckham 33 pass from Manning (Ellison pass from Manning), 8:08.				
Car—F.G. Gano 39, 2:16.				
NYG—Barkley 15 pass from Manning (Rosas kick), 1:08.				
Car—F.G. Gano 63, 0:1.				
A—74,221.				
First downs	NYG	NYG	Car	
Total Net Yards	432	350	21	
Net Yards Per Play	3.8	3.1	35	
Passing	382	232	21	
Turnovers	3	1	1	
Penalties	3-15	2-10	1-10	
Interceptions Ret.	2-41	1-18		
Blocked Punts	1-23	2-27	2-35	
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-1	1-1	1-5	
Time of Possession	24:45	24:55	3:51.0	
Penalties-Yards Lost	3-15	2-10	1-10	
Punalties-Yards	8-62	4-22	1-10	
Time of Possession	24:45	24:55	3:51.0	

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
RUSHING —New York, Barkley 15-48, Manning 1-2, Carolina, McCarthy 17-58, Newton 8-29, D.Moore 1-18, Anderson 4-53, A. Armah 1-4.	
PASSING —New York, Manning 22-36-2, Beckham 11-0-57, Carolina, Newton 21-35-2-237.	
RECEIVING —New York, Beckham 8-131, Barkley 4-81, S.Shepard 4-75, B.Shepard 2-22, D.Javis 2-27, Ellison 1-17.	
CAROLINA —McCarthy 5-35, Funchess 4-53, D.Moore 4-49, I.Thomas 3-38, Wright 3-25, Samuel 2-37.	

Gano's 63-yard field goal lifts Panthers

By STEVE REED
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Maybe Panthers coach Ron Rivera should show his special teams to run out of the tunnel more often for pre-game introductions.

Graham Gano connected on all four field goal attempts, including a career-long 63-yarder with 11 seconds remaining, and Carolina recovered a muffed punt in the end zone for a touchdown to beat the New York Giants 33-31 in a wild game Sunday.

“Piece of cake,” Rivera joked after Gano's winning field goal, which tied for the second longest in NFL history.

Gano's winning kick came after the Giants erased an 11-point fourth quarter deficit. Eli Manning hooked up with Saquon Barkley on a 15-yard touchdown pass down the right side line — the rookie made a long drive into the end zone — to put the Giants in front 31-30 with 1:08 remaining.

Gano's previous career lane was 59 yards. He's now made 35 in a row at home dating back to 2016.

He said running out of the smoky tunnel before the game for the first time in his career was “pretty special” and made him feel like Cam Newton. But the winning kick was even better.

After he converted the kick he said his main goal was seeking safety from the rest of his teammates running after him.



Mike McCann/AP

Panthers wide receiver Curtis Samuel celebrates his touchdown Sunday against the New York Giants in Charlotte, N.C.

“I just tried to hit a good ball and the rest was craziness and madness,” Gano said. “I'm so excited for our guys.”

It's the second year in a row the Giants (1-4) have been beaten by a monster field goal at the end. In the third game last season, Jake Elliott of the Eagles kicked a 61-yarder for a 27-24 win.

Newton threw for 227 yards and had two touchdowns and two interceptions and helped get the Panthers (3-1) into field goal range with a 20-yard completion to D.J. Moore and

a 9-yarder to Christian McCaffrey on the final drive.

Newton called it a “subpar” game on his part, but was thrilled Gano helped bail him out.

“A wise man told me once that a great quarterback is only as good as his kicker,” Newton said. “Graham put the whole team on his back today... well, on his toe today.”

Manning finished 22 of 36 for 326 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions, both by Panthers 37-year-old safety Mike Adams.

Odell Beckham Jr., had a big game as a receiver and passer. Beckham had eight catches for 131 yards and a touchdown and also threw a 57-yarder to Barkley for New York's first touchdown.

“I'm proud of everything we showed today,” said Beckham. “We just came up short.”

Beckham had one big mistake in the first half that cost his team. He went to block a Carolina player during a punt, and the ball hit off his leg. Two other Giants had a chance to recover the ball, but Colin Jones recovered in the end zone for a 14-3 Carolina lead.

Samuel's return: The Panthers got another weapon back on the field and he made an immediate impact. Curtis Samuel, a second-round pick in 2017, turned a wide receiver screen into a 25-yard touchdown in the first quarter in his first game since undergoing a minor heart procedure. The speedster, 5-foot-11 and 195 pounds, showed some toughness by breaking three tackles to get into the end zone.

NFL

Cousins, defense lead Vikings to win

By ROB MAADDI

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Linval Joseph whipped out the sunglasses, sat on the bench and pulled on the oxygen mask.

Rest up, big man. Job well done.

Kirk Cousins threw for 301 yards and one touchdown, the 330-pound Joseph returned a fumble 64 yards for a score and the Minnesota Vikings beat the Philadelphia Eagles 23-21 Sunday in a rematch of last season's NFC championship game.

"I love seeing Linval on the sideline in his glasses after Cousins. They have a lot of fun," Cousins said.

Carson Wentz and the rest of Philadelphia's offense again struggled as the defending Super Bowl champions fell to 2-3.

Nick Foles led the Eagles to a 38-7 rout over Case Keenum and Minnesota's top-ranked defense in the title game on his way to earning MVP honors again in New England.

Trying to rally from a 17-point deficit midway through the third quarter, the Eagles were set up to take the lead after Roc Thomas dropped a backward pass and Nigel Bradham recovered the fumble at the Vikings 30 in the fourth quarter. But Wentz was called for intentional grounding and coach Doug Pederson elected not to let Jake Elliott try a 58-yarder.

"We were in great position and we go backward," Wentz said. "It's frustrating."

Dan Bailey, who missed two field goals earlier, nailed a 52-yard field goal to extend the lead to 23-14 with 2:47 left.

Wentz fired a 7-yard TD pass to Zach Ertz to cut it to 23-21, with 1:09 left but Adam Thielen recovered the onside kick.

The Vikings (2-2) got an excellent performance from Cousins, who completed 30 of 37 passes, to avoid falling further behind in the NFC North. Cousins became the first player in NFL history to complete at least 30 passes in four consecutive games.

"The pressure keeps building because we know what kind of team we could have if we can overcome some of the things we've been doing," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said. "There was a lot of pressure to come in here and get a win. They studied hard, came out and worked their rear ends off."

Cousins praised offensive coordinator John DeFilippo, who was Philadelphia's quarterbacks coach the past two seasons.

"Credit to Coach Phil for being aggressive as a play caller, giving us a chance," Cousins said.

Joseph snatched Wentz's fumble out of the air and rumbled the distance to give the Vikings a 10-3 lead in the second quarter. Stephen Weatherly knocked the ball loose and Wentz couldn't recover to catch Joseph from behind after the trip-sack.

After a roughing penalty by



MATT ROURKE/AP

Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins threw for 301 yards and a touchdown on Sunday in a 23-21 over the Eagles in Philadelphia.

Michael Bennett negated his sack, Cousins tossed a 3-yard touchdown pass to Thielen to extend the lead to 17-3 at halftime. Bennett hit Cousins in the upper thigh, held his legs before letting go and Cousins fell backward.

The Eagles finally got going on the opening drive of the third quarter, but Eric Kendricks forced Jay Ajayi to fumble at the Vikings 5 and recovered it. Cousins connected deep with Thielen for 68 yards on the next play and the Vikings reached the Eagles 2 before setting for Bailey's 22-yard field goal.

"There is no excuse down there," Ajayi said. "I didn't do my job."

Down 20-3, the Eagles had a first down at the Vikings 15, but Wentz took a sack and they ended up kicking a field goal.

Vikings 23, Eagles 21

Minnesota	3	14	3	3-23
Philadelphia	0	3	15-21	
Min—FG Bailey 37, 5:02				
Min—FG Elliott 30, 12:24				
Min—Joseph 64 fumble return (Bailey kick), 4:12				
Min—Thielen, 3 pass from Cousins (Bailey kick), 2:1				
Min—FG Bailey 22, 7:32				
Min—FG Elliott 28, 2:57				
Min—Smallwood 12 pass from Wentz (Smallwood run), 12:08				
Min—FG Bailey 52, 2:47				
Min—Thielen 7 pass from Wentz (Elliott kick), 1:09				
A—69-696				

	Min	Phi
First downs	3	21
Total Net Yards	375	364
Rushes-yards	23-77	17-81
Passing	252	282
Punt Returns	2-22	0-0
Kickoff Returns	0-0	4-86
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	30-37-0	24-35-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-3	3-26
Punts	2-39-0	4-46-8
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-2
Penalties-Yards	4-23	8-52
Time of Possession	32:47	27:13

RUSHING—Minnesota, Murray 11-62, Diggs 2-25, Thomas 4-5, Boone 1-1, Cousins 5-1. **Philadelphia**, Ajayi 8-29, Smallwood 1-7, Wentz 5-26, Adams 1-minus 1). **PASSING—Minnesota**, Cousins 30-37-0, 301. **Philadelphia**, Wentz 24-35-0, 311. **RECEIVING—Minnesota**, Diggs 10-17, Thielen 7-116, Rudolph 5-41, Tradekell 3-21, Murray 2-14, Hahn 1-7, Thomas 1-6, McGowan 1-6. **Philadelphia**, Ertz 10-116, Agholor 4-45, Smallwood 3-44, Jeffery 2-39, Goedert 2-16, Gibson 1-48, Ajayi 1-5, Matthews 1-4.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—Minnesota, Bailey 25, Bailey 45.



EO ZURGA/AP

Kansas City Chiefs defensive back Orlando Scandrick (22) intercepts a pass intended for Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver D.J. Chark during the second half of Sunday in Kansas City, Mo.

Chiefs cruise past Jags

By DAVE SKRETTA

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The only thing missing from the Chiefs' rout of the Jaguars on Sunday was discipline.

The Chiefs forced five turnovers on defense, returning one of Blake Bortles' four interceptions for a touchdown. Their high-scoring offense gained more than 400 yards behind Patrick Mahomes' efficient air assault and Kareem Hunt's hard running. And their special teams were simply steady.

But a little of that shine was dulled by the ejections of defensive tackle Chris Jones and pass rusher Dee Ford, both in the second half of the Chiefs' 30-14 victory.

Jones, whose pick-6 electrified Arrowhead Stadium earlier in the game, was crushed to the ground as Jacksonville attempted an extra point. For no apparent reason, Jones drove his right elbow into the thigh of the Jaguars' player beneath him, right in front of an official a few yards away.

Ford's ejection was a bit less egregious. He was flagged twice for unsportsmanlike conduct, the second of which came for standing over Bortles after chasing him into the Kansas City bench area.

"We have to keep ourselves under control emotionally. When two good football teams play each other, there's going to be emotion," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "This is a team that's going to try to be physical and push you around at your place and you can't let that happen, either, so you have to put your foot down. They have to do it the right way."

Jones and Ford were both absent from the locker room after the game.

"We have to learn from that. You surely can't be ejected from

Chiefs 30, Jaguars 14

Jacksonville	0	0	7	7-14
Kansas City	7	13	3	7-30
First Quarter				
KC—Mahomes 4 run (Butker kick), 6:39				
Second Quarter				
KC—Butker 22, 1:30				
KC—FG Butker 42, 1:56				
KC—Jones 20 interception return (Butker kick), 1:49				
Third Quarter				
KC—FG Butker 38, 5:27				
Jac—Yeldon 14 pass from Bortles (Lambro kick), 3:10				
Fourth Quarter				
KC—Hunt 4 run (Butker kick), 14:57				
Jac—Butker 22 run (Lambro kick), 5:46				
A—75-289				
First downs	Jac 29	KC 26		
Total Net Yards	502	424		
Rushes-yards	17-101	30-136		
Passing	401	298		
Punt Returns	1-6	1-2		
Kickoff Returns	2-30	1-11		
Interceptions Ret.	2-17	4-69		
Comp-Att-Int	33-61-4	22-38-2		
Sacked-Yards Lost	5-29	1-15		
Punts	3-36-0	2-58-0		
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0		
Penalties-Yards	14-65	11-105		
Time of Possession	27:17	32:43		
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS				
RUSHING—Jacquies Yeldon 10, 33 yards, 2 TDs; Jamaal Williams 4, 31 yards, 1 TD; Darnell Holmes 3, 23 yards, 1 TD; Darnell Williams 3, 4 yards, 1 TD; Bortles 4, 30 yards, 1 TD; Lamar Miller 2, 16 yards, 1 TD; Lamar Miller 1, 13 yards,				

RUSHING—Jacksonville, Yeldon 10-53, Bortles 4-34, Grant 1-8, Wilds 2-6. **Kansas City**, Hunt 23-81, Hill 2-26, Mahomes 4-13, Dan Williams 1-0, Ware 1-0.

PASSING—Jacksonville, Bortles 33-61-4, 4-430. **Kansas City**, Mahomes 22-38-2, 313.

RECEIVING—Jacksonville, Yeldon 8-69, Paul Frazier 3-55, O'Shaughnessy 3-27, Chark 2-68. **Kansas City**, Watkins 6-78, Kelce 5-100, Hill 4-61, Conley 2-21, Sherman 1-15, Ware 1-13, Thomas 1-13, Hunt 1-7, Harris 1-5.

the game. That's not smart football," Reid said. "Nobody is going to push us around anywhere, but be smart with it."

Especially considering the Chiefs (5-0) visit New England next weekend.

The Jaguars (3-2) also were chippy throughout the game, but they at least had reason to unload their frustration. Bortles and the offense struggled with turnovers, and a defense that was ranked No. 1 in the NFL coming into the game watched Mahomes, Hunt and the rest of the Chiefs move the ball at will.

"I thought that we came out and played flat, myself included. I

think they had points on every possession in the first half," Jaguars safety Tashaun Gipson said. "You can't call yourself the best defense in the National Football League. I don't care who coaches or who's the quarterback, it just shouldn't happen. But it happened today. So, again, they're best offense in the National Football League for a reason. They definitely came out and showed us today."

In truth, the Chiefs made a solid argument that they're also the best team.

"I don't think [Jacksonville] is physical. I think they want to pretend like they're physical when everything's going good," Chiefs cornerback Orlando Scandrick said. "I think we're a really physical team. I think we play a physical style of defense. I think we play a very simple style of defense and do what we do better than you do what you do."

If not for the ejections, they would have done it to perfection on Sunday.

Here are some other takeaways from the Chiefs' victory:

Ramsey vs. Hill: Jaguars cornerback Jalen Ramsey and Chiefs wide receiver Tyreek Hill played mostly to a draw after trading barbs last week. Ramsey broke up a couple of passes and Hill managed to haul in four for 61 yards, though not all of them were with the Pro Bowl cornerback covering him. "Me and Tyreek are cool," Ramsey said. "I respect him as a player."

Running woes: The Jaguars were already without Leonard Fournette because of a hamstring injury when Corey Grant went down with a groin strain. That left only T.J. Yeldon, who's been nursing an ankle injury, and journeyman Brandon Wilds to run the ball.

SPORTS



Put to the test

Rams remain perfect with win over Seahawks » **Page 30**

NLDS

Brew
thru

Milwaukee sweeps
Colorado, moves on
to 1st NLCS since '11

By PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

DENVER

The 38-year-old journeyman catcher looked to his left and spotted his Milwaukee Brewers teammates spilling out of the dugout. Erik Kratz then looked straight ahead and saw his reliever standing alone.

So he took off for Josh Hader to give him, "the biggest hug. ... Celebrate all your celebrations, because you never know if you're going to get another one," Kratz said.

SEE SWEEPS ON PAGE 26

'Celebrate all your celebrations, because you never know if you're going to get another one.'

Erik Kratz
Milwaukee Brewers' 38-year-old catcher

Inside:

■ Braves escape nery ninth inning, avoid sweep, Page 26

The Brewers' Erik Kratz reacts after scoring on a wild pitch thrown by Colorado Rockies reliever Scott Oberg in the sixth inning of Game 3 of their NLDS on Sunday in Denver. Milwaukee won 6-0.

JOE MANONEY/AP

Suns fire GM with season set to begin » Sports briefs, Page 27



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